JOEL MATIP • EX-REDS QUIZ • ADRIAN • STEVEN GERRARD • PEP LIJNDERS • LFC LEGENDS

LIVERPOOL FC



SADIO MANE

"THE RIGHT CLUB"
"THE RIGHT MANAGER"
"THE RIGHT TIME"



liverpoolfc.com

Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

Standard Chartered

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

66% of young people not in education, employment or training in developing countries are women

(Source: ILO, 2017. Young women = 15-24 y/o)

Futuremakers by Standard Chartered
Empowering the next generation to learn, earn and grow

Globally, millions of young people lack opportunities. They are trapped in poverty unable to create a better future for themselves and their families. Standard Chartered are teaming up with Liverpool FC to raise awareness about Futuremakers, the Bank's global initiative to tackle inequality by empowering the next generation to learn, earn and grow.

You may have noticed that Liverpool FC players wore special limited-edition shirts, featuring the Futuremakers by Standard Chartered logo, when they played Tottenham Hotspur FC last month. These shirts not only helped us raise awareness of this global initiative, but raised funds for Futuremakers by Standard Chartered through a post-match auction.

But our efforts don't end with just one match!

Every donation made to Futuremakers, will be matched by Standard Chartered and be invested into community programmes globally.

To learn more or donate visit: **sc.com/scfoundation**



Contents

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ROBERTSON...SCORES!

Liverpool are trailing by a goal-to-nil at Villa Park with only three minutes of normal time remaining when Andy Robertson darts in at the far-post to power home Sadio Mane's deep cross. "I knew if I could just get myself into the position and get good contact I might score, and luckily it hit the back of the net." Mane himself scores the winner deep into added time.





CAOIMHIN'S SPOT-ON

Young goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher was one of the Reds' heroes as a young Liverpool side defeated Arsenal 5-4 on penalties in the fourth round of the Carabao Cup after an astonishing 5-5 draw. The 20-year-old Irishman saved Dani Ceballos' kick in front of the Kop to help the Reds progress to the quarter finals. He said: "Some of the lads and the coaches said to me, 'You've nothing to lose, just try to be the hero.' And luckily I did it in the end. "It was a bit of a whirlwind. It's just unreal, to be honest."





HAPPY

Clap along if you feel like Mane is a lovely guy, clap along if you feel like confidence is sky-high, clap along if you know what Sadio means to you, clap along if you feel like he's making all your dreams come true...

Words: William Hughes

"EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US CAN GET BETTER AND WE'RE ALWAYS READY TO GIVE EVERYTHING TO WIN GAMES"

When Sadio Mane was a youngster playing football back in his home village in Senegal, he wouldn't wear football boots for fear of hurting barefooted opponents. Now, into the fourth year of his Liverpool FC career, he's hurting defences with his ability on a weekly basis and heads into the final part of 2019 as a European champion and Ballon d'Or nominee.

In October he scored his 50th Premier League goal for the Reds, becoming only the tenth man to achieve that feat. But while there is no doubt that he's been good for Liverpool, he is equally unequivocal in saying that Liverpool have been good for him.

"I think since the first day I came to Liverpool every single season I have been getting better and better. Winning the Champions League was one of the best moments in my career and hopefully I can continue to improve and help Liverpool to achieve more good things. To be honest, I am really happy to be part of this great club.

"I think everything the club has helped me with, both on the pitch and off the pitch, has helped me to improve. My confidence is good but as I always say, every single one of us can get better. I think that's the case for all the Liverpool players at the moment. You always gain more confidence and more belief when you are on the pitch together, always ready to give everything possible to win games."

Going into the crunch clash with Manchester City on Sunday 10 November the Reds had been winning games more often than most: over 84 per cent (16 of 19 after Genk at home) of their matches so far this season if you include the penalty shoot-outs against Chelsea in the Super Cup and Arsenal in the Carabao Cup.

The only time they had dropped points in the Premier League was away to Manchester United last month, but even then Sadio was pleased with the team's response.

"Obviously we would love to keep winning until the end of the season but at the same time we know that in football anything can happen and, for sure, sometimes you can draw or you might lose games but this team always tries to do everything possible to win the games. We have to make ourselves ready for the next challenge all the time.

"The game at United was a really tough one. We wanted to win the game and we tried and tried and tried. I can't say we really deserved to win but I think we deserved the point and then we had to move on. After [Adam] Lallana scored, I was trying to get the boys back to the centre because I was thinking: maybe we can score another goal.

"After we lost to Napoli in the Champions League we won the




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L.F.C.


rd Chartered
AXA Know You Can
10

next five matches. After we dropped points against Manchester United we won against Genk and then against Tottenham.

"Our reaction was really, really good and that's how we have to be. They are all big games and so those are the standards we need to have all the time."

The 27-year-old scored in a losing Champions League final in 2018 but believes the triumph in the tournament last season has helped lift a weight off the club's shoulders and given them fresh belief for what they might achieve in the future.

"It was one of the great moments for each player and for all the fans of Liverpool FC. It was an incredible moment for us. The parade afterwards was also fantastic. Hopefully we will be able to have more!

"I think when you achieve things, you want to achieve more. This is how football is all the time. You always want to get better and you always want to do more and more, especially when you are winning.

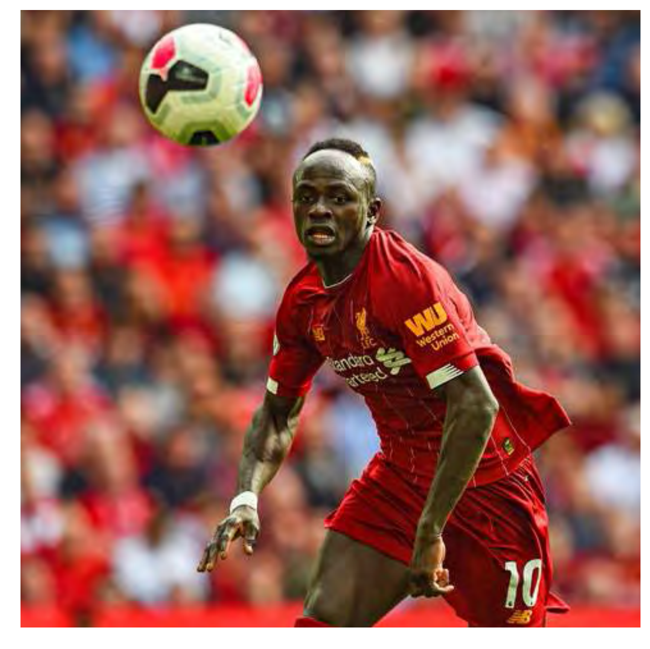
"That is in our minds for sure even though we know it won't be easy because we are going to face tough games and really good teams who want to stop us, so we have to make sure that we are ready every time we go out on the pitch."

Jürgen Klopp quickly identified Sadio as someone who would fit into his ethos of attacking, counter-pressing football, making him the first summer signing of 2016 ahead of his maiden full season in charge at Anfield. The £30 million the Reds paid Southampton looks like small-fry now.

Sadio has always enjoyed a strong relationship with the boss and cannot speak highly enough of the influence he has had on the team during his spell at the club so far.

"I would struggle to describe just how good and how successful he has been for Liverpool. Everybody can see what he has done for this club, for this city and the quality he has as a manager.

"There are a lot of good managers in Europe but what I can say



is that our manager always has the right words and the right things to manage his team, especially knowing how to deal with his team. I would always trust his influence on the team. He is a winner and I would say he is the best in the world."

Thrilling Kopites with his pace, persistence, skill and goals, Sadio himself has undoubtedly become one of the best attackers in the world – something recognised by FIFA who have named him among a magnificent seven Liverpool FC players to be nominated for this year's coveted Ballon d'Or.

"I am very happy to be nominated and also very happy for my team-mates who have been. We have a great team and it's amazing

"THE MANAGER ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT WORDS – HE'S A WINNER AND I'D ALWAYS TRUST HIM"

to have seven players nominated although I think maybe there could have been even more! Who else? I wouldn't like to name names in case I forget someone – maybe everyone!

"Of course every player would love to win it. Since I was young it has always been a dream to win it one day. We will see what happens but it is a big honour to be nominated.

"I always say that you play for the team and that trophies won by the team are always more important than individual awards. Of course if you win it's nice, but you always keep trying to improve so that you can help the team.

"I think there are many players who deserve to win the Ballon d'Or as so many have had an exceptional season, but at the end of the day they have to choose one which is not easy but it is part of football."

Sadio also prefers to place the emphasis on the team when considering individual records, such as reaching that milestone of 50 Premier League goals for the Reds against Leicester City last month. "It was nice but the main thing is that I scored and helped the team win the game."

Asked to nominate his favourite of the half-century he goes back to goal one, against Arsenal at the Emirates on his Premier League debut for the Reds. "I always think of the goal against Arsenal as it was nice to score in my first game. I think it was a good goal and it is one I will always remember.

"The back-heel against Watford [last season] was also a very nice goal but I prefer the one against Arsenal. Some people would go for Watford, but I would still go for Arsenal."

Talking about special goals, Sadio and co were all delighted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's audacious effort against Genk in the Champions League win in Belgium last month. The midfielder's strike from outside the area with the outside of his right-foot brought gasps from many inside the Luminus Arena and watching on television around the world – just like his subsequent screamer against his old club Arsenal in the amazing Carabao Cup fourth-round win at Anfield.

The team-spirit in and around the Reds camp is evident to anyone fortunate enough to spend time at the club's Melwood training-base and Sadio and his team-mates were delighted to see the Ox back among the goals.

"Oxy was one of the most important players for the team before his injury which kept him out for around one year, but now everybody is happy that he can continue doing a good job for the team, especially as he is a big player for us.

"He did very well in the away game against Genk and scored two goals so everyone is really happy for him and hopefully we can look forward to having him on the pitch more often again. If he can do that it will certainly be good for us and help the team."

As part of a revered front-three with Bobby Firmino "the shyest footballer I have ever met and a really good guy" and Mo Salah "a really cool guy, sometimes very funny," Sadio and his attacking partners have made goals their currency since linking up in the summer of 2017.

The trio shared 91 goals in 2017/18, then 69 last term and another 20 up to and including the 2-1 win over Spurs at the back-end of last month. That's an astonishing 180 goals between them but Sadio feels it is no surprise.

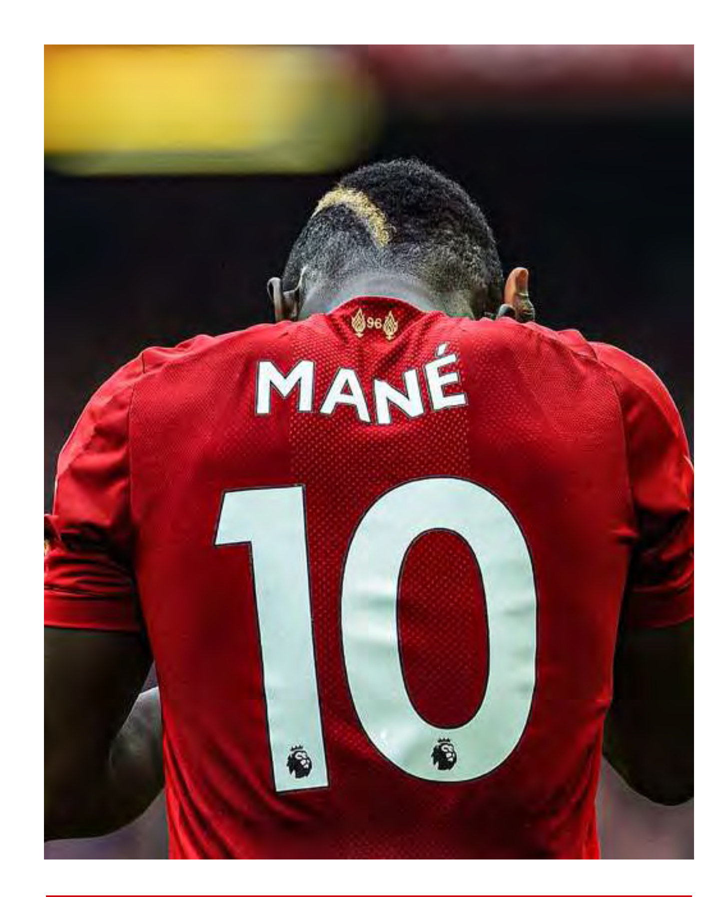
"I always say it is very easy to work together. Personally I just think myself very lucky to play alongside these great players. Every single player who plays alongside them would enjoy it because they are very good players and they make everything easy, so I just enjoy playing alongside them.

"We are all from different countries and speak different first languages but I think football is one language and it is universal so everybody can speak it. It is the same with Mo, Bobby and myself."

Sadio ends by saying the atmosphere in the dressing-room and around the club is something that makes him want to be part of the set-up for years to come.

"A lot of us have been together for four years now so we know each other very well which is really important for the team-spirit. Among the players the mood is always incredible and fun but we know that we need to work hard every day too.

"I have been in a few clubs in the world but Liverpool is a little bit like a family."



OVER 50s CLUB

ROBBIE FOWLER 128 goals in 266 games
(0.48 per game)

STEVEN GERRARD 120 goals in 504 games
(0.24 per game)

MICHAEL OWEN 118 goals in 216 games
(0.55 per game)

LUIS SUAREZ 69 goals in 110 games
(0.63 per game)

FERNANDO TORRES 65 goals in 102 games
(0.64 per game)

MOHAMED SALAH 59 goals in 84 games
(0.70 per game)

SADIO MANE 51 goals in 103 games
(0.49 per game)

ROBERTO FIRMINO 51 goals in 148 games
(0.34 per game)

DIRK KUYT 51 goals in 208 games
(0.24 per game)

DANIEL STURRIDGE 50 goals in 116 games
(0.43 per game)

correct as of 02.11.19


LFC


10

50 MANE

GOALS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

1 ARSENAL (A) SUN 14 AUG 2016
Cuts in from the right touchline before arrowing a left-footed drive past goalie Cech.



2 LEICESTER CITY (H) SAT 10 SEPT 2016
Lucas, Firmino, Henderson and Sturridge combine before he scoops the ball over the onrushing Schmeichel.

3 HULL CITY (H) SAT 24 SEPT 2016
A fine turn and finish from Lallana's assist to beat keeper Marshall low to his right on 36 minutes, LFC's third in a 5-1 win.

4 WEST BROM (H) SAT 22 OCT 2016
A well-executed volley after being picked out by Firmino's floated cross, opening the scoring against the Baggies.

5 WATFORD (H) SAT 6 NOV 2016
A clever run from Milner's pass takes him in front of defender Janmaat before he glances a header over keeper Gomes.

6 WATFORD (H) SAT 6 NOV 2016
A typically calm finish for his second of the game after being played in by Firmino, the fifth of Liverpool's sixth on this day.

7 BOURNEMOUTH (A) SUN 4 DEC 2016
Flicks the ball beyond keeper Boruc after latching on to a lofted pass from Can, to open the scoring for the visitors.



8 EVERTON (A) MON 19 DEC 2016
A late derby winner as he reacts when Sturridge's low shot comes back off the post – spawning a brand new Kopite song!

9 SUNDERLAND (A) MON 2 JAN 2017
A poacher's effort from inside the six-yard box following a corner from Moreno, putting the visitors 2-1 up at the time.

10 TOTTENHAM (H) SAT 11 FEB 2017
From Wijnaldum's assist, holds off defender Davies before firing past Lloris. Sixteen minutes gone and the Reds are one-up.



11 TOTTENHAM (H) SAT 11 FEB 2017

Just two minutes later and he tucks away his second of the game after Lloris had saved from Lallana and Firmino.

12 ARSENAL (H) SAT 4 MAR 2017

An unerring finish from Firmino's precise pass following a lovely team-move, 2-0 five minutes before the interval.

13 EVERTON (H) SAT 1 APR 2017

Slaloms his way across the field before angling a left-footed drive beyond keeper Robles.

14 WATFORD (A) SAT 12 AUG 2017

First game of the season, first goal – runs onto a Can pass and bursts into the penalty area, takes a touch and steers home.

15 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) SAT 19 AUG 2017

Sweeps beyond keeper Hennessey from close-range after Palace gift him possession (Andy Robbo made his debut in this one).

16 ARSENAL (H) SUN 27 AUG 2017

Cuts inside from the left and curls a beauty beyond the reach of keeper Cech.

17 STOKE CITY (A) WED 29 NOV 2017
Seventeen minutes gone when he takes one touch to create space then dinks his finish over advancing keeper Grant.

18 BURNLEY (A) MON 1 JAN 2018
Takes a low Trent cross with his back to goal and swivels to score on the turn, to put Liverpool in front on the hour.

19 MAN CITY (H) SUN 14 JAN 2018
A quicksilver counter-attack ends with a stunning finish after being picked out by Salah, sending Anfield absolutely wild.

20 WEST HAM (H) SAT 24 FEB 2018
Beats a certain Adrian between the sticks from left-back Robertson's low cross to cap a fine Liverpool move.

21 NEWCASTLE (H) SAT 3 MAR 2018
Following a clever diagonal run, he takes a touch and opens up his body before unleashing a thunderous shot into the net.



22 CRYSTAL PALACE (A) SAT 31 MAR 2018
A clever near-post finish after ghosting in front of ex-Reds centre-back Sakho puts Liverpool level on terms.

23 BOURNEMOUTH (H) SAT 14 APR 2018
Seven minutes into proceedings he sweeps in the rebound after keeper Begovic had parried his header at the Anfield Road end.

24 WEST HAM (H) SUN 12 AUG 2018
Taps into an open Hammers goal inside the six-yard box after being picked out by Milner's intelligent cut-back.

25 WEST HAM (H) SUN 12 AUG 2018
His second in the 2018/19 season-opener as Firmino flicks the ball into the penalty-area – Sadio turns and rifles home.

26 CRYSTAL PALACE (A) MON 20 AUG 2018
Races through from the halfway line and outpaces defender Van Aanholt before rounding Hennessey and slotting in.

27 LEICESTER CITY (A) SAT 1 SEPT 2018
The ball ricochets off Sadio from centre-back Maguire's challenge and he's first to react with an instinctive finish.

28 CARDIFF CITY (H) SAT 27 OCT 2018
Wriggles free of a couple of defenders and unleashes an unstoppable angled drive past keeper Etheridge.

29 CARDIFF CITY (H) SAT 27 OCT 2018
Salah picks out Sadio's run and, despite accelerating, he shows composure to conjure up a dinked finish.

30 MAN UNITED (H) SUN 16 DEC 2018
Controls Fabinho's lovely lofted patch on his chest and in his stride before volleying past De Gea from the six-yard area.

31 ARSENAL (H) SAT 29 DEC 2018
A close-range finish after being teed up by Robertson and Salah. Three-one after 32 breathless minutes at Anfield.

32 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) SAT 19 JAN 2019
Exchanges passes with Robertson before racing clear to curl a low finish beyond keeper Speroni, in a 4-3 thriller.

33 LEICESTER CITY (H) WED 30 JAN 2019
Takes a touch on the snowy Anfield surface before bending a low shot past Schmeichel.

34 WEST HAM (A) MON 4 FEB 2019
Picked out by Milner with his back to goal, takes one touch before swivelling to dispatch with his left into the net.

35 BOURNEMOUTH (H) SAT 9 FEB 2019
Scores for the fourth game in a row for the first time as he heads home Milner's cross.

36 WATFORD (H) WED 27 FEB 2019
Another header as he soars to meet Trent's cross and beat Hornets keeper Foster nine minutes into the midweek match.

37 WATFORD (H) WED 27 FEB 2019
Brilliant improvisation as he doubles Liverpool's advantage with a back-heel, two-nil with 20 on the clock.



38 BURNLEY (H) SUN 10 MAR 2019
A loose ball runs into his path and he curls a first-time strike beyond keeper Heaton, putting Liverpool 2-1 up.



39 BURNLEY (H) SUN 10 MAR 2019
Outpaces the defence, nicks the ball past Heaton with his right foot and rolls it into the empty Kop net with his left.

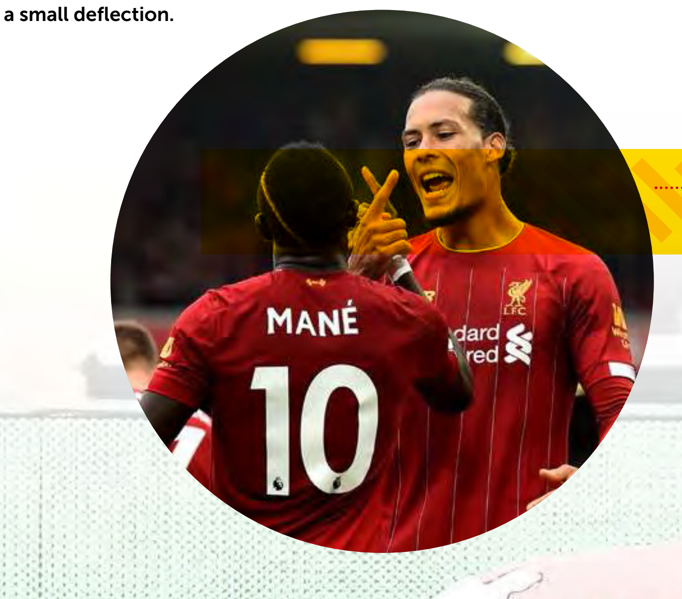
40 FULHAM (A) SUN 17 MAR 2019
Exchanges passes with Firmino and cushions a controlled effort into the net at the near-post in a crucial match in West London.

41 CHELSEA (H) SUN 14 APR 2019
On 51 minutes he heads the Reds into a vital lead after being picked out by skipper Henderson's cross.

42 HUDDERSFIELD (H) FRI 26 APR 2019
A powerful header after being picked out by Robertson's cross from the left, making it 2-0 after Keita's early opener.

43 HUDDERSFIELD (H) FRI 26 APR 2019
Another fine header against the Terriers, this time from a Henderson centre on 66 minutes – the fourth of LFC's five.

44 WOLVES (H) SUN 12 MAY 2019
A close-range finish in front of the Kop after a Trent cross takes a small deflection.



45 WOLVES (H) SUN 12 MAY 2019
A fine header puts the finishing touch to another Trent cross from the right. Now for Madrid and a certain big final...

46 SOUTHAMPTON (A) SAT 17 AUG 2019
A brilliant right-footed strike from just inside the Saints area, assisted by Milner, making it one-nil on the stroke of half-time.

47 BURNLEY (A) SAT 31 AUG 2019
A first-time finish rounds off a sweeping counter-attack on 37 minutes at Turf Moor, assisted this time by Firmino.

48 NEWCASTLE (H) SAT 14 SEPT 2019
Equalises with a whizzing right-footed shot in front of the Kop after receiving a Robertson pass inside the area.

49 NEWCASTLE (H) SAT 14 SEPT 2019
Pounces to put the Reds ahead from close-range after visiting keeper Dubravka fails to collect the ball cleanly.

50 LEICESTER CITY (H) SAT 5 OCT 2019
Races on to Milner's superb through-ball down the left flank and slots calmly beyond Schmeichel at the Kop end.

WHERE
Inside the area 50
(none outside)
At Anfield 35
Anfield Road end 19
Kop end 17

WHEN
0-15 mins 5
16-30 mins 15
31-45 mins 11
46-60 mins 5
61-75 mins 7
76-90 mins 7

HOW
Right-foot 30
Left-foot 13
Header 7

ASSISTS
11 Firmino; 7 Milner; 5: Robertson, Alexander-Arnold (plus 5 opponent error); 4: Salah; 3 Henderson, Sturridge; 2: Lallana, Can; 1 Wijnaldum, Solanke, Fabinho.


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MEET 'DYSON', LFC'S NO3!

Fabinho's excellent displays have earned him a new nickname from Jürgen Klopp. The holding midfielder 'hoovered up' the danger in front of the defence during the Reds' 2-1 home win over Tottenham Hotspur, prompting the boss to say of the Brazilian: "'Dyson' in the centre was there for each ball defensively – what a game he played, unbelievable! Connecting with Bobby in the centre... I loved the game to be honest."



"FOCUS + DESIRE = GOALS"

Midfielder Naby Keita says it is a collective desire to reach new goals that is driving this Liverpool squad to new standards of excellence. "You always have to remain focused. It's that focus that brings the desire – and it's that desire that helps you a lot in achieving your goals," he told the club's website. "It's that momentum that motivates us, builds confidence and drives us to do even better. That's the goal we all set ourselves as players, as a club and as the manager too. I believe we will remain focused and calm and continue to make progress."


L.F.C.
"'Tis the season... to believe"
Jürgen Klopp
100s of Exclusive LFC Gifts
liverpoolfc.com/christmas
WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.

THE EX FACTOR

How's your knowledge of former Liverpool players? Prepare to be tested with 30 questions about those latterly in red...

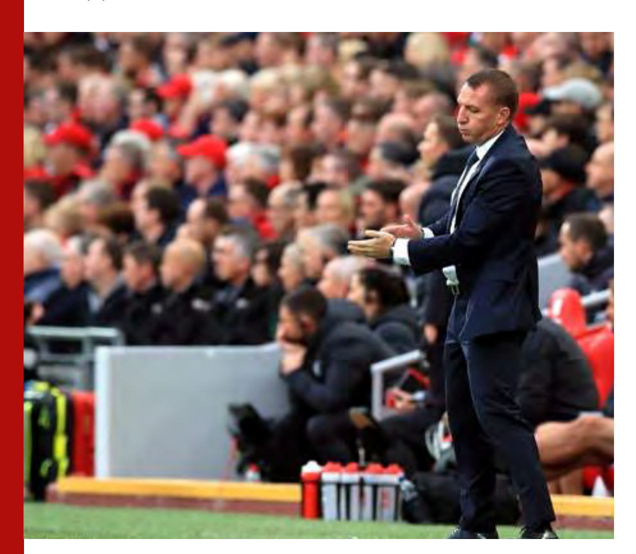
1 LIVERPOOL'S ERSTWHILE MIDFIELD MAESTRO XABI ALONSO CURRENTLY MANAGES:

(a) Real Madrid B
(b) Real Sociedad B
(c) Real Zaragoza B
(d) Real Betis B



2 WHICH 1980S LIVERPOOL STAR CALLED HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY *5 LEAGUE TITLES AND A PACKET OF CRISPS*?

(a) Jan Molby
(b) Alan Kennedy
(c) Steve Nicol
(d) Bruce Grobbelaar



3 NAME THE EX-RED CURRENTLY ON BRENDAN RODGERS' COACHING STAFF AT LEICESTER CITY?

(a) Kolo Toure
(b) Gary McAllister
(c) Rickie Lambert
(d) Kevin MacDonald

4 IT'S EX-LFC MIDFIELDER JAY SPEARING CELEBRATING PROMOTION WITH BOLTON WANDERERS IN 2017 – WHICH TEAM DOES HE CAPTAIN NOW?

(a) Blackpool
(b) Oldham Athletic
(c) Blackburn Rovers
(d) Preston North End



5 WHAT FIRST NAME DID PETER CROUCH JOKINGLY TWEET HE'D GIVEN TO HIS NEW-BORN SON FOLLOWING LIVERPOOL'S 2019 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL WIN?

(a) Jürgen
(b) Virgil
(c) Mohamed
(d) Divock

6 WHICH FORMER LIVERPOOL WINGER NOW COACHES WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS' UNDER-23 SIDE?

(a) Mark Walters
(b) Mark Kennedy
(c) Istvan Kozma
(d) Antonio Nunez



11 DANIEL AGGER CO-OWNS A COMPANY CALLED KLOAGGER – WHAT IS THEIR LINE OF WORK?
(a) Drainage and sewerage
(b) Washroom hand-driers
(c) Pest-control
(d) Recycling plastics

12 WHICH FORMER LIVERPOOL FULL-BACK NOW MANAGES RANGERS FC WOMEN?
(a) Gregory Vignal
(b) Stig Inge-Bjornebye
(c) Stephen Warnock
(d) Stephen Wright

13 FOR WHICH OF THESE CLUBS HAS STEWART DOWNING, NOW AGED 35, NOT PLAYED SINCE LEAVING ANFIELD?
(a) West Ham United
(b) Sunderland
(c) Middlesbrough
(d) Blackburn Rovers

7 SAMMY LEE WAS ASSISTANT-MANAGER AT WHICH PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB FROM DECEMBER 2017 TO MAY 2018?
(a) Southampton
(b) Crystal Palace
(c) Everton
(d) Newcastle United

8 FOR WHICH OF THESE CLUBS HAS STRIKER FABIO BORINI, 28, NOT PLAYED?
(a) AC Milan
(b) Chelsea
(c) AS Roma
(d) West Ham United

9 WHICH EX-REDS DEFENDER NOW COMPETES IN MOTOCROSS AND RIDES WITH NUMBER 4 ON HIS MOTORBIKE?
(a) Daniel Agger
(b) Torben Piechnik
(c) Stephane Henchoz
(d) Sami Hyypia





10 RAFA CAMACHO SIGNED FOR WHICH PORTUGUESE CLUB LAST SUMMER?
(a) Sporting Club de Portugal
(b) Benfica
(c) Porto
(d) Sporting Braga

14 IN 2018 FORMER REDS CENTRE-FORWARD JOHN TOSHACK MANAGED A TEAM CALLED TRACTOR SPORT CLUB – IN WHICH COUNTRY?
(a) Azerbaijan
(b) Iraq
(c) Iran
(d) Lebanon

15 IN APRIL THIS YEAR ROBBIE FOWLER WAS APPOINTED MANAGER OF WHICH A-LEAGUE TEAM DOWN UNDER?
(a) Perth Glory
(b) Brisbane Roar
(c) Melbourne Victory
(d) Newcastle Jets





16 **WHICH EX-RED SIGNED FOR FRENCH FOURTH-TIER SIDE FC ANNECY THIS SEASON?**
(a) Damien Plessis
(b) David Ngog
(c) Anthony Le Tallec
(d) Florent Sinama-Pongolle

17 **WHICH OF THESE LFC ACADEMY GRADUATES ISN'T PRESENTLY PLAYING FOR STEVEN GERRARD AT RANGERS?**
(a) Ovie Ejaria
(b) Sheyi Ojo
(c) Ryan Kent
(d) Jon Flanagan

18 **WHICH SPANIARD LEFT LIVERPOOL IN 2009 AND HAS SPENT A DECADE PLAYING FOR ATHLETIC BILBAO?**
(a) Daniel Ayala
(b) Antonio Barragan
(c) Dani Pacheco
(d) Mikel San Jose

19 **CRAIG BELLAMY COACHES WHICH EUROPEAN CLUB'S UNDER-21 SIDE?**
(a) Standard Liege
(b) Feyenoord
(c) Anderlecht
(d) AZ Alkmaar

20 **WHICH FORMER REDS DEFENDER WAS THE GLOBAL LEADER OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S OFFICIAL FANTASY FOOTBALL GAME GOING INTO THE OCTOBER INTERNATIONAL-BREAK?**
(a) Rob Jones
(b) Nick Tanner
(c) David Burrows
(d) Mark Wright



21 **WHAT NAME DID NORWEGIAN EX-RED JOHN ARNE RIISE GIVE HIS SON WHO WAS BORN IN SEPTEMBER 2019?**
(a) Cristian
(b) Colin
(c) Connor
(d) Cayden



22 **PAUL DALGLISH DIDN'T MAKE A FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCE FOR THE REDS BUT FOR WHICH TOP-FLIGHT TEAM DID HE SCORE AGAINST TRANMERE ROVERS IN THE 1998/99 LEAGUE CUP?**
(a) Norwich City
(b) Aston Villa
(c) Southampton
(d) Newcastle United

23 **FOR WHOM DOES MAXI RODRIGUEZ NOW PLAY BACK IN HIS NATIVE ARGENTINA?**
(a) River Plate
(b) Boca Juniors
(c) Newell's Old Boys
(d) Velez Sarsfield



24 **IT'S EX-RED MARIO BALOTELLI CELEBRATING A GOAL FOR MARSEILLE LAST MARCH BY POSTING AN INSTAGRAM LIVE STORY ON HIS PHONE! WHICH LONG-SERVING CLUB LEGEND DID SOMETHING SIMILAR FOUR YEARS AGO?**
(a) Sergio Ramos
(b) Carles Puyol
(c) Steven Gerrard
(d) Francesco Totti

25 **WHO THIS FORMER LFC PLAYER (LEFT)?**
(a) Milan Baros
(b) Krisztian Nemeth
(c) Mark Gonzalez
(d) Bruno Cheyrou



26 WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE COFFEE SHOP OWNED BY SIMON MIGNOLET IN HIS BELGIAN HOMETOWN OF SINT-TRUIDEN?

(a) Simon's
(b) No1 Coffee
(c) Twenty Two
(d) Mignespresso

27 WHAT SHIRT NUMBER DOES LUIS SUAREZ WEAR FOR BARCELONA?

(a) 7
(b) 8
(c) 9
(d) 16

28 AUSTRIAN THIRD-TIER SIDE FC PINZGAU SAALFELDEN ARE MANAGED BY WHICH MEMBER OF LIVERPOOL'S 2000/01 TREBLE-WINNING SQUAD?

(a) Sander Westerveld
(b) Igor Biscan
(c) Jari Litmanen
(d) Christian Ziege

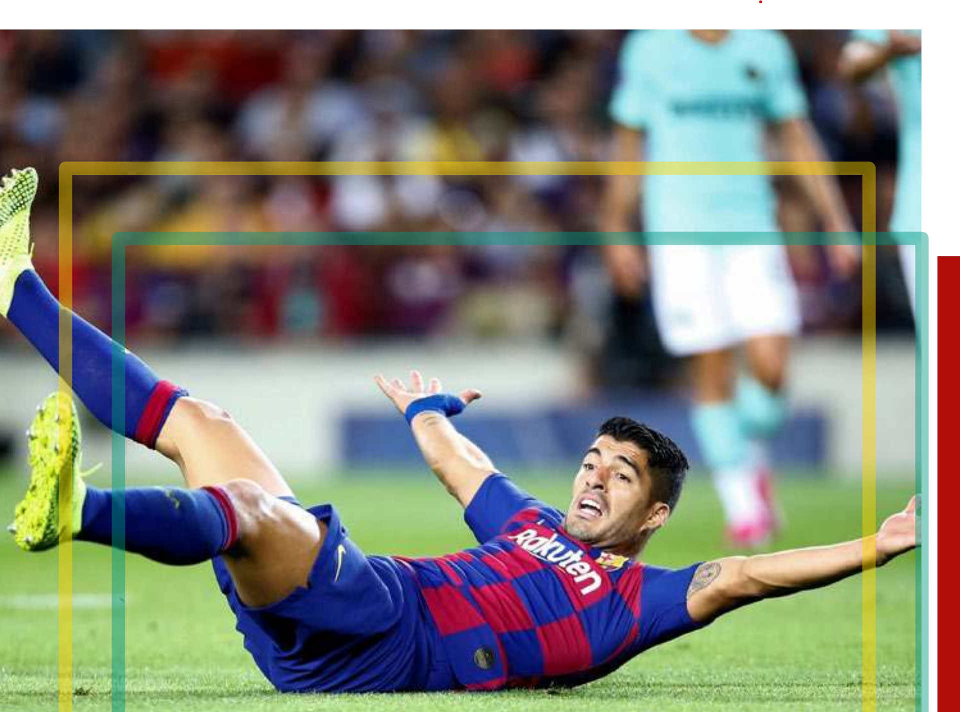
29 WINGER OUSSAMA ASSAIDI NEVER FOUND THE NET FOR LIVERPOOL BUT HE SCORED A 90TH-MINUTE BELTER FOR STOKE CITY AGAINST WHOM IN DECEMBER 2013?

(a) Manchester United
(b) Chelsea
(c) Manchester City
(d) Arsenal

30 FERNANDO TORRES RETIRED IN AUGUST 2019 – WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE JAPANESE CLUB FOR WHOM HE PLAYED HIS FINAL GAME?

(a) Sagan Tosu
(b) Urawa Reds
(c) Kashima Antlers
(d) Vissel Kobe





ANSWERS: 1 (b) Real Sociedad B; **2.** (c) Steve Nicol; **3.** (a) Kolo Toure; **4.** (a) Blackpool; **5.** (d) Divock – he actually called him Jack; **6.** (b) Mark Kennedy; **7.** (c) Everton; **8.** (d) West Ham United; **9.** (d) Sami Hyypia; **10.** (a) Sporting Club de Portugal; **11.** (a) drainage and sewerage; **12.** (a) Gregory Vignal; **13.** (d) Sunderland; **14.** (c) Iran; **15.** (b) Brisbane Roar; **16.** (c) Anthony Le Tallec; **17.** (a) Ovie Ejaria, on loan at Rangers last season and now at Reading; **18.** (d) Mikel San Jose; **19.** (c) Anderlecht; **20.** (b) Nick Tanner, top out of 6.9m players; **21.** (b) Colin; **22.** (d) Newcastle United; **23.** (c) Newell's Old Boys, his third spell there; **24.** (d) Francesco Totti for Roma v Lazio: **25.** (c) Mark Gonzalez; **26.** (c) Twenty Two after his usual shirt number; **27.** (c) 9; **28.** (d) Christian Ziege; **29.** (b) Chelsea; **30.** (a) Sagan Tosu.


32
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AXA

NOT GOING OUT

After an outstanding year at the heart of the defence Joel Matip has extended his stay with Liverpool and here's what he said to LFCTV upon putting pen to paper

Joel, first thing's first, congratulations. How does it feel to sign this new contract?
It's a great feeling to be a longer part of the club, really just a great feeling. When I first arrived [Joel was one of Jürgen Klopp's first signings] I didn't want to expect too much. I'd had a great time at Schalke and I hoped more great times would follow at Liverpool and that we'd have a lot of success. I just wanted to enjoy the time.

Now, to play at a club like Liverpool with these team-mates, it's a wonderful experience.

Were you aware of the weight of expectation here?
From outside, you know Liverpool is such a big club. But when you are inside, then you really get a feeling for how big the club is. In all the countries the supporters are everywhere. It's a massive club that I think every player would want to play for.



What do you remember about that first season? Coming to a new country and a new style and everything that goes with it – was it difficult to adapt to at first?

Of course. Before, I had only played in Germany for the same club, so it was completely new for me to go to a new club. The welcome from the club and from all the people here was so great that I could settle in quite early.

Everyone helped me to settle in, the whole club, all of my team-mates. All of them were friendly and I had never a feeling that I was the new guy. They made me feel at home.

Of course, in the beginning it is hard because there are some differences in the kind of play and the club is much bigger. It is more physical in the Premier League and it is often quite quick – quicker than the Bundesliga, I would say.

The individual quality you have to face from week-to-week here is really impressive, but my team-mates are top-quality and so we can play.

You obviously dreamed of everything when you were a young footballer growing up, but even in your wildest dreams did you envisage where you would be now – a Champions League winner with Liverpool?

This is one of the dreams that every young footballer or young kid has, but normally you know it probably won't come true. Now I am part of this club and we won the Champions League, that's something nobody can ever take away from you. I hope something like this will follow on again.

My favourite moment from the final? After the 90 minutes when the referee blew his whistle. Then you know, it's done and you have done it.

I don't have to watch it back, the trophy-lift and homecoming and things like that – because it is all in my head and the memories come back easily. I don't have to look at it because it is always in my mind.

It is great to be a part of the history and to be remembered for things like this, but we are working hard to make us remembered for some more things!





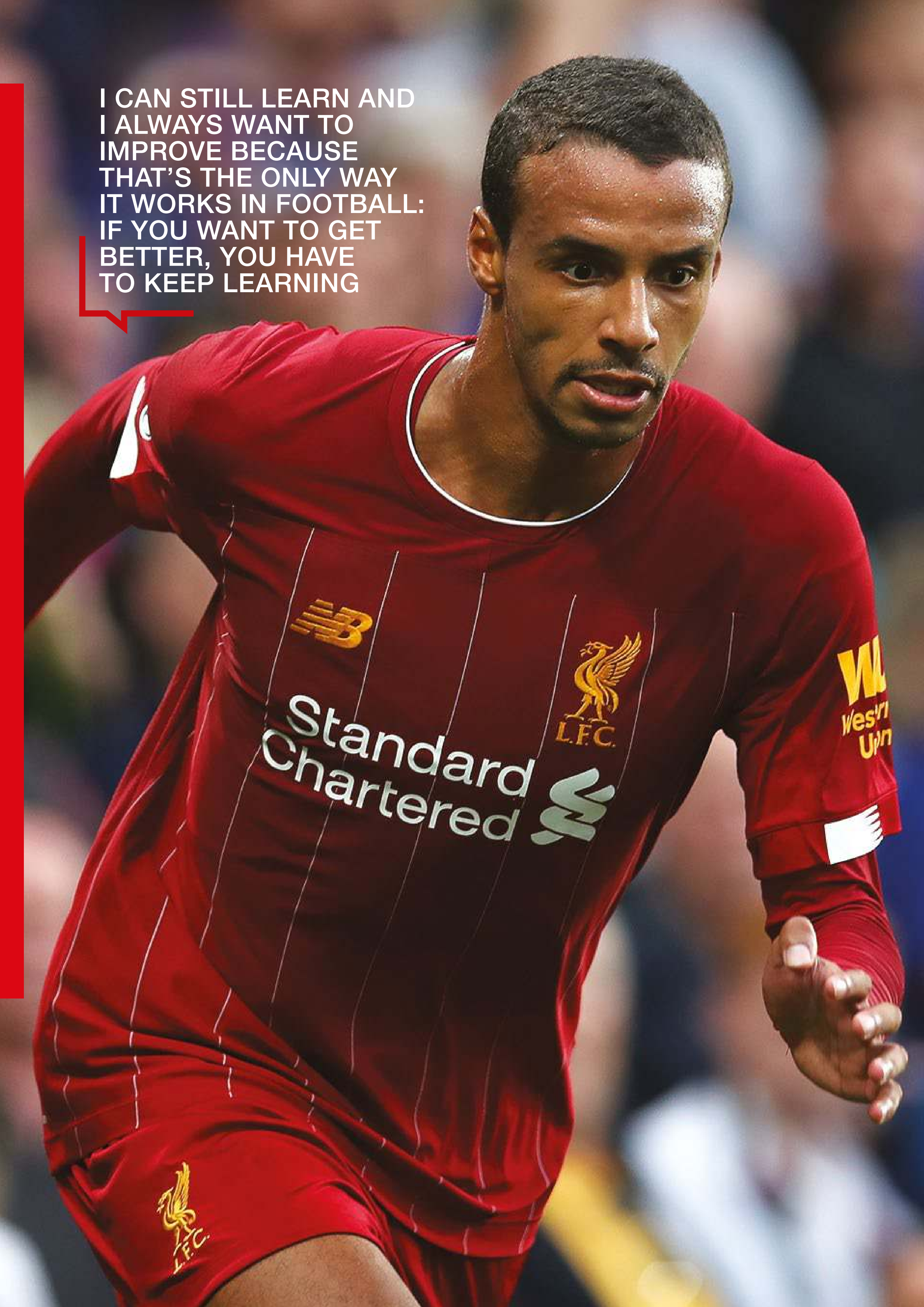
I DON'T HAVE TO WATCH IT BACK, THE TROPHY, THE HOMECOMING, IT'S ALL IN MY MEMORY

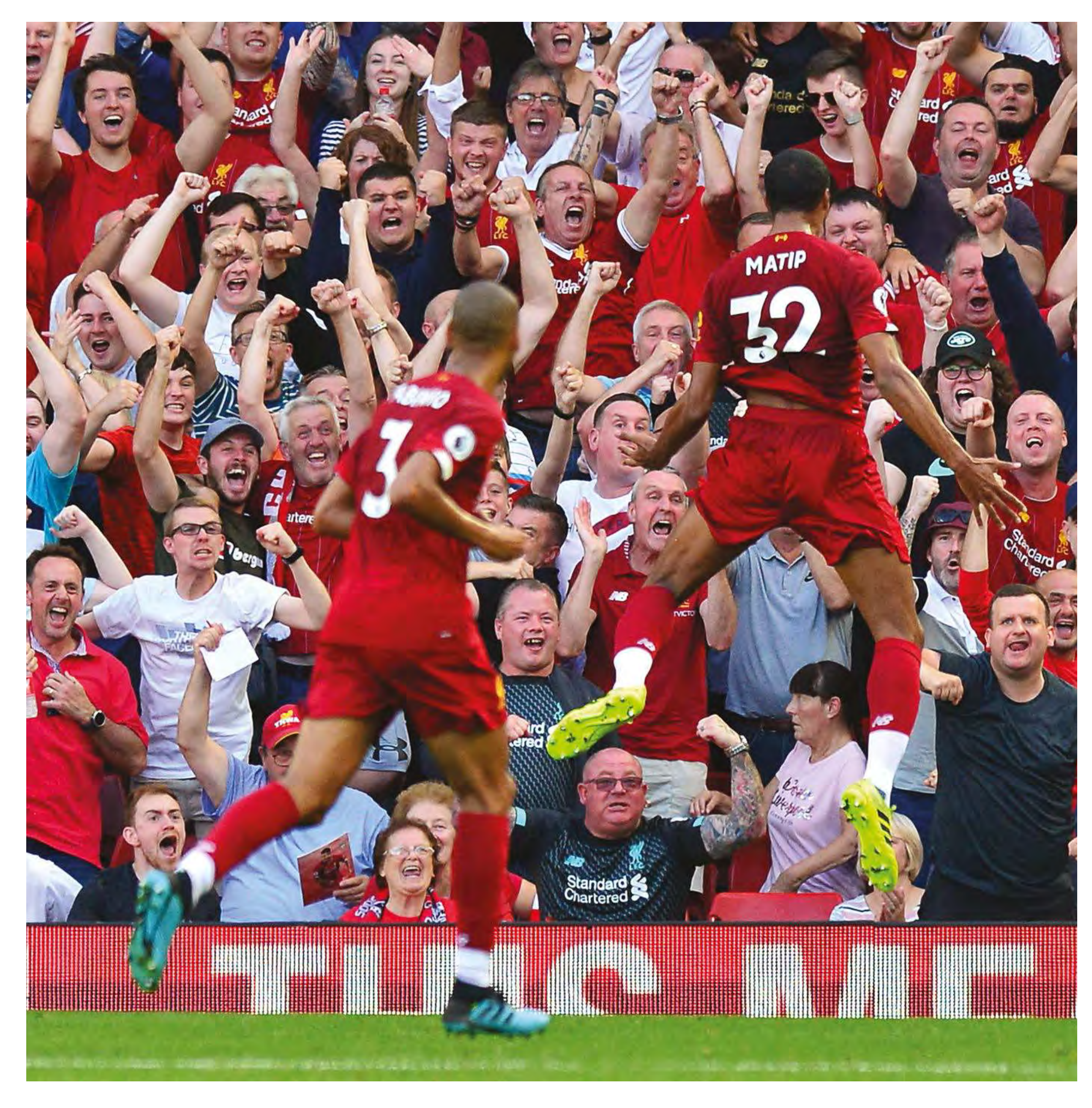
Does the hunger intensify when you win a trophy like the Champions League?
Of course. You don't want it to be the end. We have a young and talented team and I think every one of us is hungry. Now we've seen how it is to win something and we want to have that feeling again. Sometimes you need a little bit of luck and a lot of work to have this success. We've had it now, but we are focused to repeat it and repeat it.

You're 28 now, when they say centre-backs come into their peak years – is that how you feel now, physically and mentally, the best you've been in your career?
I've had a few years in my career now and as a centre-back you maybe need some more time to learn. I have had enough time to learn now, but I still can learn – I want to improve, even when I am 30 or something like this.

You learn some more things and there are things you try to make better. It is a long time, you have a lot of team-mates and




I CAN STILL LEARN AND I ALWAYS WANT TO IMPROVE BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY IT WORKS IN FOOTBALL: IF YOU WANT TO GET BETTER, YOU HAVE TO KEEP LEARNING
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L.F.C.
L.F.C.



a lot of coaches and you want to take from everyone the things that can make you better. You want to learn from everyone. If you have these experiences, it will make you better.

I always want to improve, I always want to learn. It is the only way it works – if you want to get better, you have to learn.

You've not missed many games since last January – did you envisage at this point last year that you'd come into the Liverpool team and you'd be there pretty much ever since?

You always hope and try but you never know how it will end. You try to work hard to achieve this, to be part of the squad and the players who are playing, but you never know. There are some times when you are not playing but you cannot stop, you have to continue.

It is always good if you play. I had some problems with injuries, but this belongs to a player's life. I hope that I am getting better and better, that's my only target.

We have a big squad and every one of us wants to play. We have a lot of quality. There are moments when you are looking from the outside, but you try to work hard to come back in.

There were challenges at the start of the season, you weren't in the team for the first game of the season – is that something where you draw on previous experiences to say this will come again?

As you get older, you know, you try to work hard to be there if you get the chance. Sometimes it takes longer, sometimes you directly get the chance, but this is how football life works.

That life can't always be that easy, though. Like at Christmas time…It is quite hard for us. For me and my girlfriend, we are living here, but in Germany we lived quite close to our families. Christmas celebrations and things like this belong to the life in Germany, but here it is quite difficult to do the same, but we get used to it.

We normally do a small Christmas party – my girlfriend, me and sometimes a few members of our families – but it depends year to year.

"JOEL'S WORLD-CLASS"

Jürgen Klopp has paid tribute to Matip, one of his first signings after making the move from Schalke 04 on a free in the summer of 2016.

"Joel's journey at Liverpool is one I love and I am absolutely delighted he has shown his commitment to us by signing this new long-term contract," says the boss. "As the team has evolved and become better, so too has Joel. "I said earlier this year that signing a player of his quality is one of the best, [most] incredible pieces of business we've done since I started here – and I think now that's something everyone can see.

"I knew what he was capable of from seeing him up-close in the Bundesliga and we were certain he could bring that performance level to us.

"Of course, it is not easy for any player coming to the Premier League, let alone coming to a club the size of Liverpool, so maybe in the beginning there were some questions externally about his consistency. But not anymore. Joel has been operating as a world-class centre-half throughout this year and long may it continue. I haven't seen many in his position performing with the same consistency and quality.

"Obviously here at Liverpool we're very lucky to have not only him, but also Virg, Dejan and Joe in the position. I'm fortunate to be able to pick from such outstanding talent.

"Off the pitch, Joel is one of the nicest, most humble guys you could wish to meet. But on it he is a fighter, someone who gives everything to try to help the team get the victory. He has a winner's mentality. He loves what he is doing and for us to have him here for even longer is perfect for us all."





Personal accolades don't sit comfortably with you, but in September Liverpool won three out of three in the league, conceded two goals and you were the PFA Premier League player of the month – how did that feel?

As you can imagine, it is not the worst feeling! It is nice, but I just want to look forward and to do the best things in the future. It's nice to hear it, but for the future it will not help anybody. I just try to do my best in the coming games.

Virgil van Dijk, what is he like to play with?

He is a complete centre-back – strong at the back and also in attack, at every set-piece he is a threat for every team and everybody is looking to him. He is helping his team-mates. It doesn't matter if you're a midfielder, or me or the left-back, he makes everybody better. That's a great help for the team and every team-mate.

There is a lot of competition [in the defensive positions], like in the whole team. This makes everybody better. Everybody is not happy the whole time, but if you have this competition then you know you cannot rest for one second because there is another player who can step in and take your place.

You've got two goals so far this season – is that something you're looking to contribute more?

Yes, I want to score more goals. It has been a good beginning and I hope a few more will follow, but you never know. I try to work hard and try it.

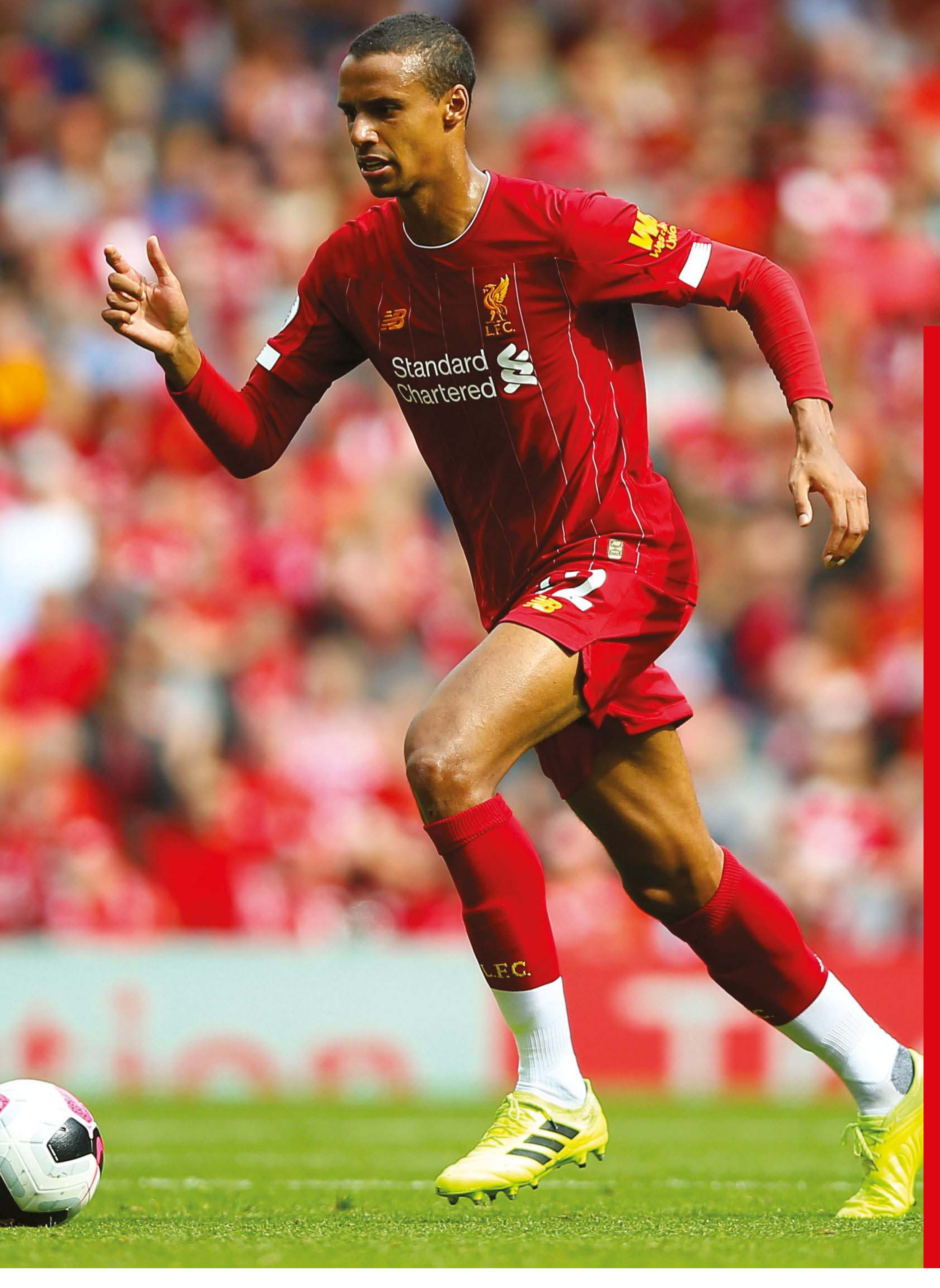
In the last few seasons, I was not that happy with the goals scored because I had a few opportunities. Sometimes I was quite close, but I never scored that often. It is a personal target, but I know my first target is to defend and if you can score then that's also not too bad for the team!

Your family must be so proud of what you've achieved, but what's still to come from Joel Matip?

I think they are quite happy because I am happy – and they were only looking to make me happy and that I was happy in what I am doing. That is the case!

There are a lot of things [still to come]. You never know how it will end, you just have to work hard and do the best you can do. Then we will see.

It is an honour to be a part of the club. It makes me happy that people think I've done a good job and they want to keep me.


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MANÉ
10
FIRMINO
9
4

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT 95 MINUTES



Another dramatic day at Anfield, another album of spectacular shots taken by the club's photographers, and the pick of the bunch are here to tell the tale

Liverpool v Leicester City, Premier League, Saturday 5 October 2019, three o'clock kick-off. Overcast but not cold, the first home fixture of the season that's not tee-shirt-and-shorts weather.

Among the 52,161 at Anfield, the usual phalanx of photographers behind each goal. Two of them, though, father and son John and Andrew Powell, have a more enterprising assignment: as the club's official photographers they have vantage-points pitchside and, occasionally, in the stands, and the results of their matchday work – achieved with the most sophisticated, state-of-the-art equipment and an eye for the shot – are consistently brilliant.

Just as well because their images are transferred to live-feeds and posted on the club's social-media accounts within seconds.

In this business it's all about capturing the moment: the all-important goal going in, the last-ditch tackle, the crucial late save.

The mood, too: celebration, passion, relief, disbelief, on the field, along the touchline and in the stands, in-play and when the action is paused.

These photos paint a more intimate, evocative picture of the matchday story, the one most of us don't quite see inside the stadium or watching on-screen: an Andy Robbo throw-in to a cascading backdrop of rapt supporters; Trent lining up a free-kick or taking a short corner; Mane stretching every sinew in pursuit of a pass; Milner thundering into another challenge; Bobby balletically bringing the ball down.

This is the game of the weekend, the Premier League match of the day. Klopp versus Rodgers. Runaway Reds against high-flying Foxes. Intense and absorbing.

Leicester win the toss, Liverpool attack the Kop. First 20 minutes: the hosts start strongly, their characteristic dominance of possession allowing them to control early proceedings, and a Salah shot is saved by Schmeichel. Then a Leicester foray into enemy territory and two corners in quick succession. Back down the other end Mane has one saved and Bobby goes close. Leicester player going in the book? Ndidi is.

Thirty-seven minutes: VAR decision, no red card for Alexander-Arnold's Anfield Road-end challenge. But Fabinho yellow-carded. Milner slings an inviting pass down the left and Mane outstrips his marker. Right-footed shot, centre of the box, bottom-right corner.

Goal – his 50th in the top-flight for Liverpool. He slides to his knees at the scoreboard corner between the Kop and Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand. Half-time, one-nil, and breathe.

Back out, act two. The Foxes show more adventure in the second period but it's Liverpool who continue to threaten with two Salah shots blocked before the impressive Soyuncu is booked.

Firmino fires wide. Robertson's drive is tipped over. Evans gets a yellow. A mid-half flurry of substitutions: Perez on for Praet. Henderson and Origi on for Wijnaldum and Firmino.

Eighty minutes: equaliser. Perez puts through Maddison whose shot squirms past Adrian into the net. Now then, Liverpool.

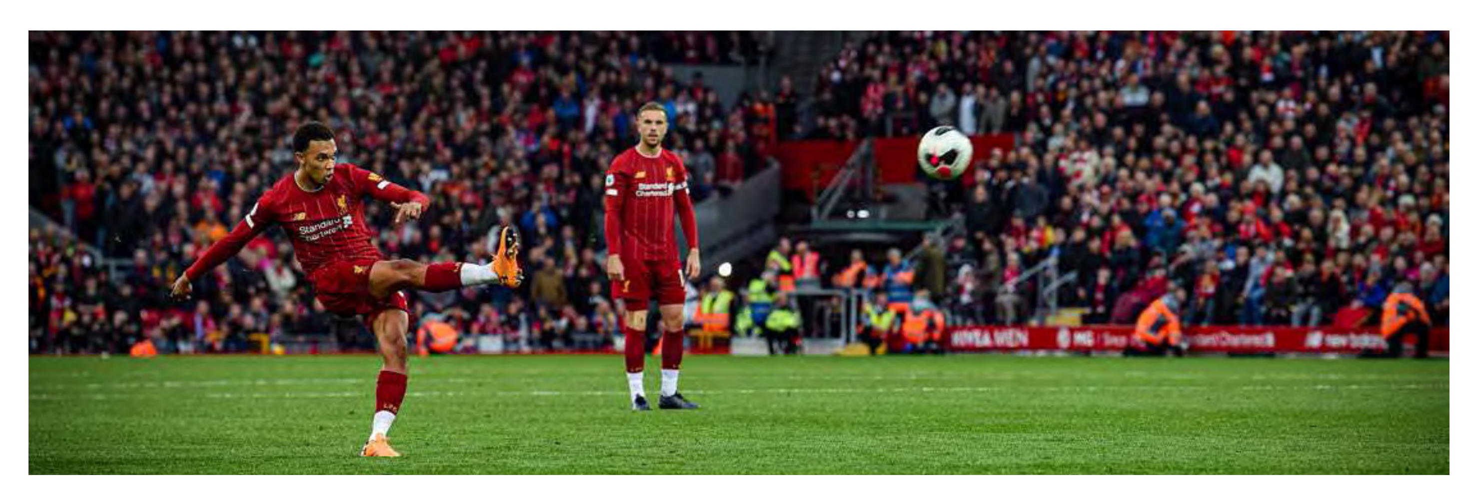
That 100-per-cent record under threat amid roars of defiance from the Kop and songs of joy in the away end. A cross from a corner is powered over at close-range by Van Dijk before Choudry comes on for goalscorer Maddison and gets cautioned for a wild lunge on Salah who's running at goal full-pelt.

Ninety minutes up: Lallana on for the limping Salah. Ninety-plus-three: VAR decision, penalty for Liverpool after Albrighton bundles Mane over in the box. Anfield utterly gripped. Milner, right foot, bottom-right corner. The stadium erupts. Final whistle, two-one.

It's the 34th time Liverpool have scored a 90th-minute winning goal in a Premier League match – at least nine more than any other side. Seventeen successive Premier League victories and unbeaten in 44 league games at home: 34 wins and ten draws, the longest current run in Europe's top five leagues.

High drama, pure box-office. Nothing lasts forever but the Anfield experience is invariably something special.

After all, the camera never lies.

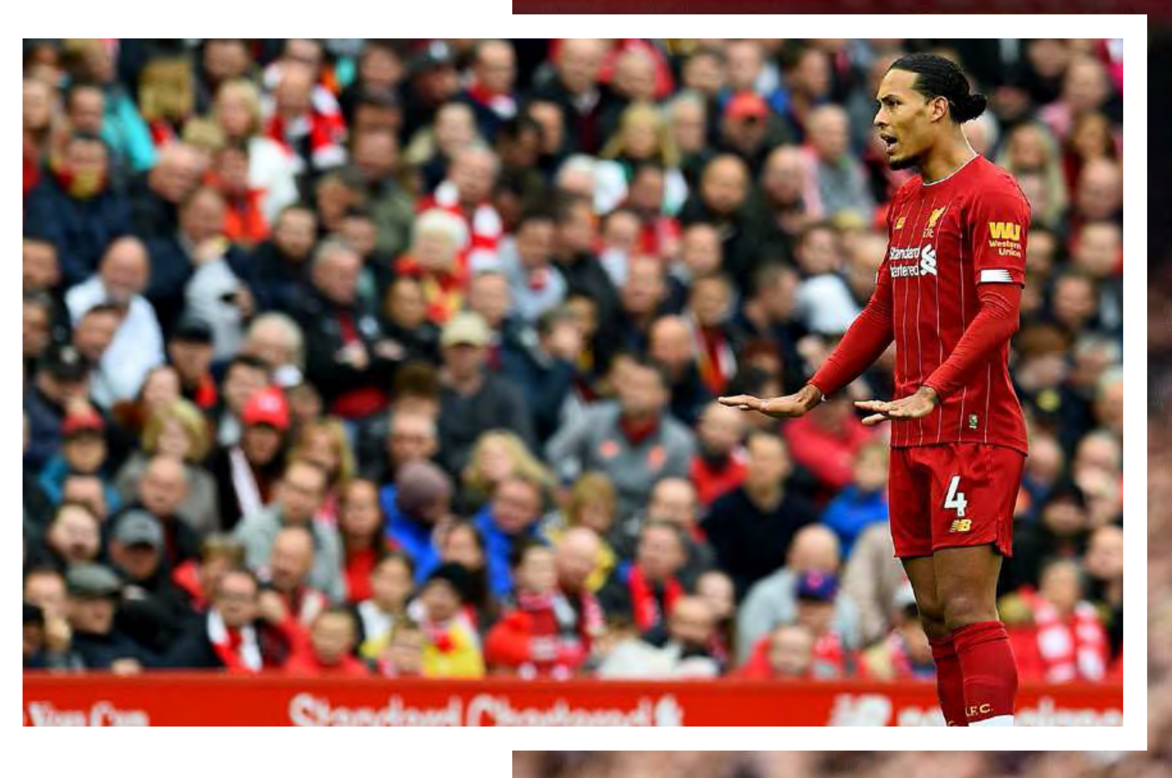



96
ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
66

The assist for Mane's goal was a Milner pass from inside the Liverpool half which the sprinting striker didn't touch until just outside the Leicester penalty area before applying this precision-finish past the keeper and into the far corner of the net.


SALAH
11
FIRMINO
9
MANÉ


MANÉ
10
LFC
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WU
4



Virgil, voice of reason;
Bobby, perfect ball-control;
Robbo, ready to launch one.


FIRMINO
9

Know You Can
WesternUnion WU
Standard Chartered
new balance
Know You Can
WesternUnion WU
Standard Chartered
Carlsberg

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD
66
Standard Chartered
new balance

Standard Chartered
new balance
7
21


Standard Chartered
LFC
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LFC
L.F.C.
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AXA



DREAM-COME-TRUE

Right-back Neco Williams will never forget his full debut for Liverpool. The Welshman provided the 94th-minute assist that led to Divock Origi making the final score 5-5 when LFC met Arsenal in the Carabao Cup. Neco was one of five teenagers to feature for the Reds on the night with two of the others, Rhian Brewster and Curtis Jones, converting penalties in the ensuing penalty shoot-out which Liverpool won 5-4. "It's a dream-come-true," he said afterwards. "It's any young Liverpool player's dream to make their debut at Anfield and obviously winning the game made it extra-special."


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“WE HAVE A CORE GROUP OF BOYS WITH AMBITION, PASSION FOR TRAINING, AN ABSOLUTE LOVE FOR THE GAME AND FOR *OUR* GAME, FOR THIS INTENSITY, THIS MINDSET – IT’S BECOME A NATURAL SKILL FOR THEM”

In a fascinating interview assistant-manager Pep Lijnders discusses the winning mentality and joyful ambition which drives Liverpool FC forward

Interview: William Hughes

→



Through to the end of October the team was setting winning and undefeated records – an incredible effort by all involved?
I agree. We searched to create a culture of victory inside our club, a culture of perfection, and we can feel this now in all the people through all the departments of the club. But we looked at it game by game, not searching for the records.

In my opinion a long number of wins is only possible with a lot of dedication and effort by all the staff, from the ground-staff, kit-management team, the analysts...everyone involved. Each game had its own story, we had games where we dominated and owned the pitch from the start until the end and we also had games where we had to find solutions and overcome adversity.

But what was always there was the 'chasing over the whole pitch' attitude of the boys.

What's been the most pleasing part about that sequence for you and the backroom staff?
Purely the mentality of the boys in the hard, hard moments, never giving up and never giving up our playing style. Never complaining or making excuses on the training pitch.

I love how we tell our team every day that we are capable of becoming really great as long we focus and we don't drop concentration – we need to maintain 100 per cent tactical discipline in our way. That's why I think these last few games were incredible in all aspects.

We have to keep the same hunger and passion to win but at the same time understand that it's much more important that we stay focused on how we play and play our way, whatever the scoreline, wherever we play and whoever we play against.

We must never leave someone alone and need to help the player who is chasing from all directions. That should be the only pressure: to help your team-mate.

A drop-off in intensity following the Champions League triumph might have been understandable but that certainly hasn't been the case so far...
We have a core group of boys with ambition, with passion for training, an absolute love for the game and for our game, for this intensity, this mindset. They have absorbed our way of play and it has become a natural skill for them.

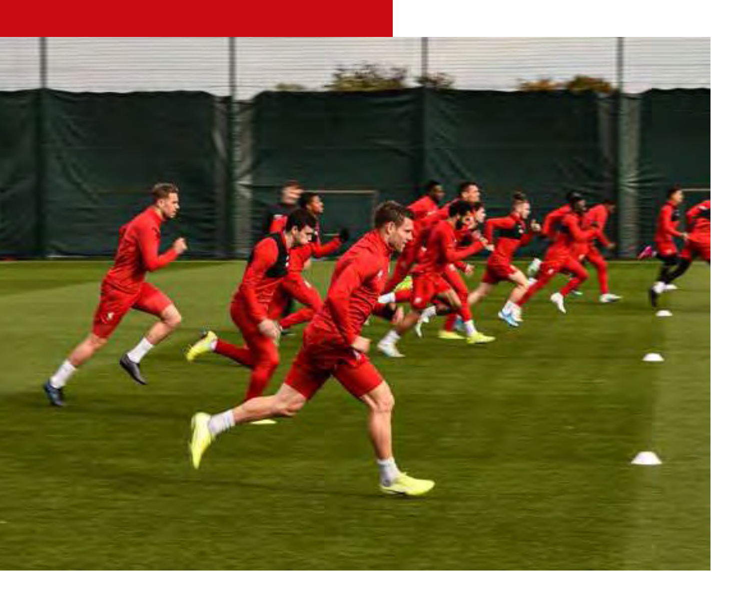
We know that the standards are very high but this is something that we like because it comes from hard work.

Phil Thompson, a former European Cup-winning captain at Liverpool, has described the players' focus from game-to-game as truly extraordinary...
True but it's not game by game – it's training session by training session too. How they focus and how they compete in every single 'rondo' [training drill], this high standard is what creates concentration. Trying to win the ball as early and as high up the pitch as possible in each training session.

As I said before, 90 per cent of the three points are achieved on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday etc.

Jürgen paid tribute to the whole team and staff when he was named FIFA Manager of the Year – you must have been delighted to see him win the accolade...
First of all I feel pride. Seeing him win that award is something I feel so proud of. He is the leader and the thinker of our team. He is not about being a coach, he is about a way of understanding life in a certain way. He makes the team ready to play their best counter-pressing game of the season every time they set foot on the pitch. The team and him are one, so we really play with 12!

There is a saying that nobody will know how much you know, until they know how much you care. For me, that's why the players are who they are.



WE SEARCHED TO CREATE A CULTURE OF VICTORY INSIDE OUR CLUB, A CULTURE OF PERFECTION, AND WE CAN FEEL THIS NOW

Five players made senior debuts in the Carabao Cup game at MK Dons – that pathway through to the first team remains vital to the continued success of the team...
For Liverpool FC the development of young players is important and fundamental because we want to create a club culture, a collective identity which is sustainable for many years. For youth players all competitive moments in our first team are important, in the cup, in the League or in the Champions League.

The most important thing is that everything is made sustainable and happens with consistency. The boys have to give their all and put their heart into the work each day because they can always do more then they think and keep up this 'common-sense' mentality.

The club has appointed Vitor Matos as elite development coach – how is he fitting in?
Vitor is someone who can really help us, who can make the next step together with all these talents. He is an intelligent and talented coach who has passion for the game and its values...a real FC Porto product. We are really happy that he is with us.

As well as Jürgen, Pete and Vitor, you also work very closely with head of fitness and conditioning Andreas Kornmayer...
I don't think it's about dividing dimensions in football but understanding the body as a whole and understanding our training process. That separates a good physical coach from the best ones, and we have one of the best ones with Andreas.

He gives direction to all the physical processes at the club. He is an incredible professional and a dedicated guy who helps our players achieve their individual targets. He and his staff help them reach a high standard of performance and discipline.



Has the introduction of VAR changed your thinking at all this season? The media has made a lot about a supposed higher line being employed by the team?
I'm in support of everything that makes the game quicker and more honest. The next step for me with VAR is the real trust between VAR and the actual referee so the process becomes more natural and quicker. Trust is the most important ingredient when people have to work together.

About the last line, in my opinion the positioning of the last line is the basis of a good pressing game. We have always had this and we will keep developing it, so we try to be as high as necessary. In my opinion, pressing is the most offensive idea in football so the positioning of the last line is the base of a dominant philosophy.

Liverpool FC have played in three Club World Cup finals but are yet to win one – how important is winning that trophy, and how hard will it be switching to and from December in England to December in Qatar?
It is important with a 'culture of victory' because each prize we can win is important, so we try to attack each competition we play. But, for me, the most important thing is the chance to show, in a different part of the world, our identity and our philosophy and a real spirit of initiative. In a perfect world people should look forward to seeing us play.

As regards changing between England and Qatar, we already have the people in charge who are preparing to make this process as smooth as possible. We have to ignore what's beyond our control whatever the circumstances. This is what we always try to do, but in these periods it will be even more the case.

It would be quite a way to finish the calendar year by winning the Club World Cup...
It would be incredible to become champions of the world. Not many big teams get this chance. It's a mark, a stamp of a strong process over many years. We have to think about the semi-final first, it's the first step and the only one that counts at the moment.

We will show we care and we will show what we want to achieve. We will fight for a result and make it an intense game from our side.

Will the most difficult part of the season be coming back from Doha to play three Premier League games in less than a week: Leicester, Wolves and Sheffield United?
It's different when you come back as the winning team, that's for sure! For me the most important aspect is to keep the team fresh during this period, knowing that what puts us above the rest is our mentality. We will always focus on what we can control.

How has the Champions League challenge changed over the past few seasons?
The team had to feel that they were among part of the few clubs who are really capable of winning it. The essence is always to be in the last eight teams, because after that everything can happen in this competition.

Our goal is that the club is there at that stage many times, so it creates the possibility to win it. But you can only feel and earn this confidence by being dominant against the best teams, which then forces development.

It's a competition that is of a very high standard, in each detail, and you have to learn that many things are still possible with certain results.

Are there any clubs in the Champions League whose philosophy or approach you admire?
Liverpool FC. Ha ha! Seriously, I admire the clubs who have a clear identity, a coach who has an idea about the game, and a team where we see the happiness in the players. I think a happy team tends to win more games.


WE STAY FOCUSED ON HOW WE PLAY, WHOEVER WE PLAY, WHEREVER WE PLAY, WHATEVER THE SCORE
FAMOUS
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LFC



EVEN STEVEN

In the first part of a Steven Gerrard double-header it's north to Glasgow for all the action and fun in the recent Legends game between Rangers and Liverpool



Two assists, a shot off the crossbar, 75 minutes in red and a ten-minute cameo in light blue. Steven Gerrard certainly played his part in an afternoon of action and entertainment in the Legends match between his current club Rangers and his alma mater Liverpool.

At Ibrox he captained a former Reds XI in front of over 30,000 fans who also had the opportunity on the day to donate to both the Rangers Charity Foundation and LFC Foundation.

Steven had 'previous' in front of goal when it comes to these sorts of occasions, scoring a late winner for Liverpool Legends against Milan Glorie at Anfield earlier this year, and finding the net versus Real Madrid Leyendas in 2017. This time he had to settle for setting them up as the visitors, managed by Ian Rush, ran out 3-2 winners with Luis Garcia, Patrik Berger and Emile Heskey finding the target.

After an early penalty-miss by Rangers striker Kris Boyd, it was Liverpool who went in front on nine minutes when Luis Garcia dived low to head home a cross from the typically effervescent Dirk Kuyt.

Within ten minutes it was two when Gerrard, looking trim and clearly relishing the occasion, burst forward from his own half before releasing Garcia who squared for Patrik Berger to fire home.





Rangers, managed by their former boss Alex McLeish, reduced the deficit on 25 minutes, Boyd making amends by sweeping past Jerzy Dudek in the Liverpool goal. But the Reds restored their two-goal cushion within two minutes when Gerrard went on another run and reverse-passed to forward Emile Heskey who clipped home on his left foot. Peter Lovenkrands made it 3-2 from close-range a minute later, then Gerrard hit the woodwork.

Both sides went close in the second half and with 20 minutes left on the clock Steven was substituted before reappearing soon after for the hosts to a huge cheer.

Afterwards he told the Rangers website: "The game went well, there were a lot of goals and plenty of entertainment, so hopefully the supporters go away very happy. I am certainly satisfied and I loved today.

"I miss playing, I miss being a player and I miss being in the





"GREAT TO SEE LEGENDS BACK IN THE LFC SHIRT"

Arnie Baldursson



Legends

v



BARÇA
Legends





LEGENDS 2020

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dressing-room. I miss the camaraderie and I miss competing. So to get the chance to do it again in front of a packed Ibrox on a wonderful surface and in an iconic stadium, I was never turning that down.

"When I was a player I liked to try and entertain the fans and try to provide service for the front players and that is the way I tried to play today. I ran out of steam a little bit at the end but I did okay.

"Obviously the chance to put the famous blue shirt on was a nice touch. I'm very proud to be the manager and it's only right for them to see me in a blue shirt. The support and the backing they give me on a weekly basis that was the reason why I wanted to give a little cameo for the blue side of it as well."

Also in action was his former Liverpool team-mate Jose Enrique, and how great it was to see the former left-back back on the football field following his recovery from







life-saving surgery last summer.

The Spanish defender revealed on Liverpool's website: "A year ago I had a tumour in my head, I thought I was dying, and now I'm playing here in front of 30,000 people. I can be grateful and happy to be part of this. It has been a very difficult time, probably the most difficult time of my life.

"To wear this shirt again, it's my club – I feel like this is my club – and to play 90 minutes again with this team is amazing. I don't even remember the last time I played 90 minutes. I was really happy to see the guys and obviously to play again.

"When you are retired, to come here and play in front of the fans, you enjoy it so much. I won't forget this."

Photography courtesy Luke Nickerson – Rangers FC

GOALDEN CHILD













You want more Steven Gerrard? You go it, two decades back to (almost) the beginning for Liverpool's one-in-a-millennium

Steven Gerrard's first goal for Liverpool Football Club came 20 years ago this December. While arguably his most famous one for the club came on a Wednesday in a European Cup final, his maiden in Red was against a Wednesday, on a Sunday, helping make him one of only 13 players in LFC history to score on every day of the week. Not one of his many stand-out records or achievements, but still...

It came a year after his debut and during a prolonged period in and out of the side with shin and back issues brought on by a growth spurt. But little did we know just how much of a sign of things to come the events of 5 December 1999 would be.

It had been a stuttering start to Gerard Houllier's first full season as manager. The Reds had lost three home league games by the end of September including Everton's most recent victory there – more on that later. But the Frenchman's new-look side came into this Super Sunday clash with the Owls having won the previous five on home soil.

Liverpool had something of a midfield injury crisis to contend with, too. Skipper Jamie Redknapp's knee injury was worse than first feared ruling him out for three months while Czech duo Patrik Berger and Vladimir Smicer were also missing.

Thankfully, as the BBC's match report put it, this would be "a coming of age" performance from three emerging talents who would all get on the scoresheet in a much-needed victory.

Danny Murphy, David Thompson and Gerrard lined-up in midfield alongside the ever-unflustered Didi Hamann, at that time our second most expensive signing, and the German had become a fixture after returning from an injury on debut.

While Murphy's prominence in the side would not be for another season and sporadic appearances from Thompson meant it would be his last season with the club, Gerrard was now enjoying an extended run in the team in the no28 shirt, though frequently substituted in part due to his early-career injury troubles.

Incidentally he is LFC's most substituted player (94) – another lesser known stat – with current player Bobby Firmino on 65 in third on said list.

The hosts would briefly trail though after future Toffee Niclas Alexandersson whistled a strike into the far corner from a neatly-worked free-kick, only for another one of the Liverpool new boys, a certain Finnish centre-half called Sami Hyypia, to head the Reds level from a Thompson Kop-end corner.

Thompson was involved again for Liverpool's second ahead of the interval. His dipping effort was superbly kept out by Wednesday legend Kevin Pressman only for it to fall kindly for Murphy for a volley of his own into the unguarded net.

Wednesday were always in the game, though, and what would become a familiar context for many of Gerrard's 186 LFC goals – as he picked up the ball from Rigobert Song just outside the centre-circle in the opposition half – helped keep the game in Liverpool's favour, as the *Echo* match-report explained:

"Until Gerrard rescued them, Liverpool's largely inexperienced midfield, which had been so diligent and so productive earlier, suddenly became a worry, offering its rivals far too much space. Rather than making things happen, the Reds simply hoped they would, and the crowd's vociferous concern was not ill-founded.

"Indeed, the dangerous Alexandersson was desperately unlucky when another rasping drive bounced inches wide of [Sander] Westerveld's far post.

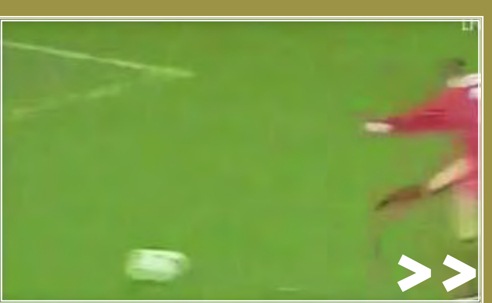
"It was a timely let-off for the home team, who had been forced on the defensive and had viewed a counter-attack as a respite. But just when they needed inspiring they were inspired in the 68th minute.

"Gerrard didn't just step forward, he side-stepped,













danced and dribbled past three defenders before finishing decisively. Gerrard is a wonderful talent, a young man with the steel of a [Nobby] Stiles and the style of a Souness. And he couldn't have chosen a better way to fire his first senior goal."

The goal was something of a redemption mission from the 19-year-old, who earlier in the season had let that fractious occasion of an ill-tempered Merseyside derby get the better of him after being red-carded for a high challenge on Everton's match-winner Kevin Campbell.

"I've taken on board everything the gaffer has told me," said Gerrard in the days following the Sheffield game. "He had a go at me over the sending-off and subsequent suspension I picked up against Everton. He told me I needed to be more composed in my play and that he wanted me on the pitch and not on the sidelines.

"He grabbed me after Sunday's game and said I was improving but I must keep my feet on the floor and keep working hard.

"I feel on top of the world at the moment but the manager changes the team all the time so you can't get complacent. All the lads know that every time they go out they have to do well because there is somebody ready to step into their place."

Man-of-the-match Thompson added gloss to the slightly flattering scoreline soon after with a curler out of the Mo Salah playbook, turning his man and whipping into the top corner for 4-1

It's still the most recent meeting between the sides after Sheffield Wednesday's relegation at the end of the campaign, subsequently having two spells in the third tier and also missing out on a return to the Premier League in 2016 after losing the play-off final to Andy Robertson's Hull City.

So while it was his first and last goal against Wednesday, for Steven Gerrard it was only the start of quite the LFC career to come.

Words: Michael McGuinness











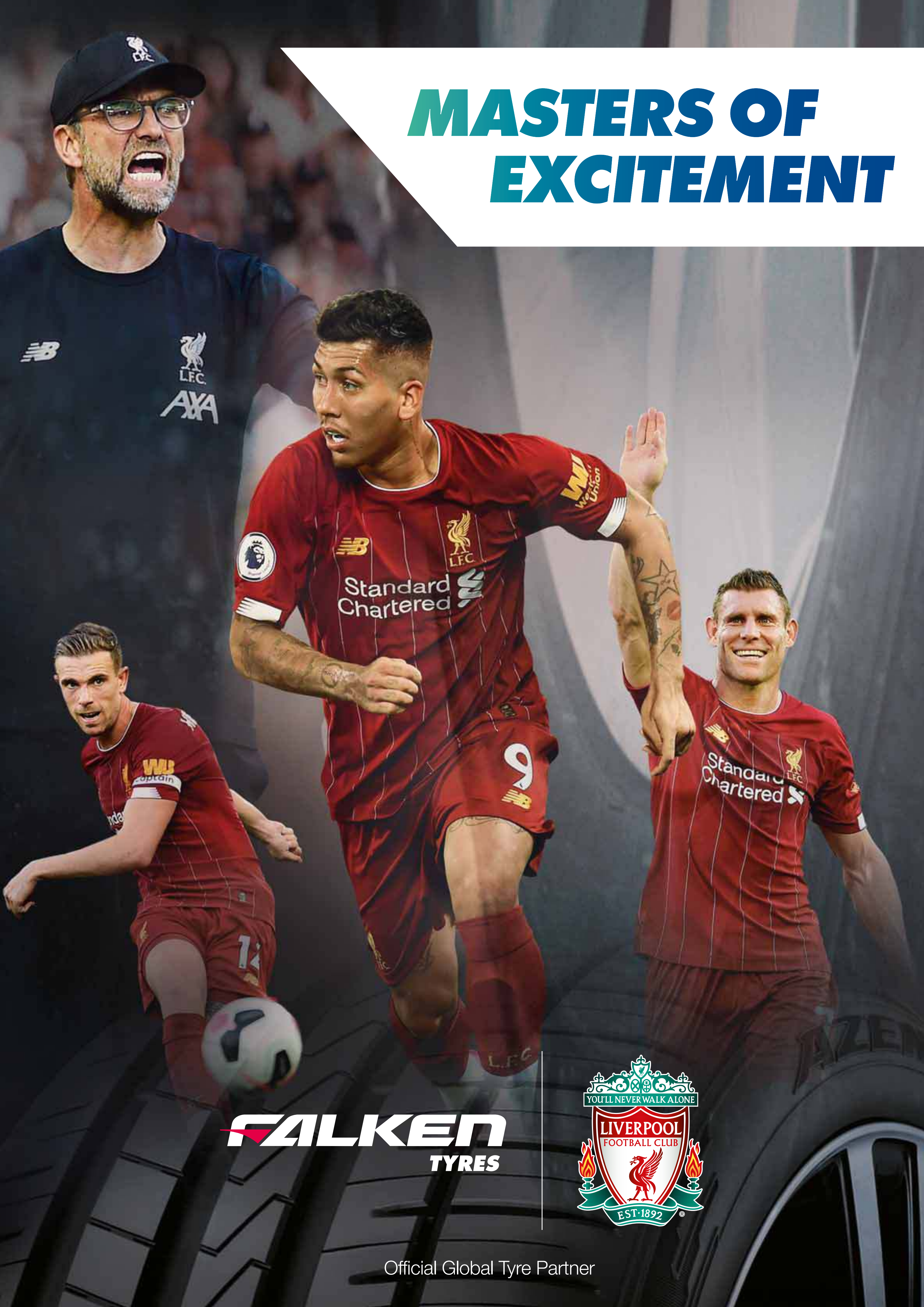
PLAY. WIN. REPEAT.

Virgil van Dijk hailed the Reds' resilience and faith in their game-plan after they left it late to come from behind and defeat Aston Villa 2-1 to start November with a victory. The centre-back explained: "I think the main thing is we have to keep doing the same things. It is difficult for teams to keep defending if we keep playing like we do for the full 90 minutes. You have to just do your natural thing when you have the ball."



PENALTY POINTS

Teenage striker Rhian Brewster marked his first senior game at Anfield by scoring one of the Reds' penalties during the shoot-out defeat of Arsenal in the Carabao Cup. He kept his calm to confidently slot home LFC's third kick of the night past Gunners keeper Emiliano Martinez. He says: "The boss has a plan for me and he knows what he's doing, clearly! Chatting to him, he is saying, 'Just be patient, your time will come, it will happen'."


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Interview: William Hughes

TECHNICALLY GIFTED

How goalkeeping coach **Jen Herst** is helping the Reds blaze a trail in women's football

Whenever the Liverpool FC Women's squad attend pre-match meetings and post-game debriefs, they have special reason to listen up. The Reds are the only club in the country whose technical staff are so highly-qualified.

Manager Vicky Jepson, first-team coach Emma Humphries and goalkeeping coach Jen Herst all hold UEFA 'A' licences, the highest offered by European football's governing body.

Jen is also one of only two women in the UK to hold UEFA's 'A' goalkeeping award. She is thrilled to have re-joined the Reds coaching team this summer after spells away at Manchester City and Everton.

The 29-year-old, who hails from Warrington, has been a Liverpool fan all her life and originally worked with the club's under-tens back in 2008. A year later she was joined on the coaching team by Jepson!

Jen played briefly for Manchester City's age-group teams before her move into coaching. She suffers from a heart condition that ruled out the possibility of an outfield career.

"I got to a point where I couldn't run enough anymore so my mum suggested going in goal," she explains. "I started doing my coaching badges because when I was in goal for my team at Man City I didn't have a goalkeeping coach, never mind a female goalkeeper coach! The manager of the team did everything and one of the other players would warm me up for the game.

"I decided to enrol on an FA level-two coaching course so I could learn more and be better for my team-mates on a Sunday. At that time I felt as though I didn't quite know what I was doing and I wanted to be better. I thought: I'll just go on it and see what it's like. I absolutely loved every second of it. That's when I thought: this is what I want to do."

Jen's route to coaching at Liverpool FC came about through former Reds midfielder Hannah Dale. "I started working at the club while I was studying sports development at Edge Hill University. I was coaching my local grassroots club in Great Sankey. Hannah played for them and was scouted by Liverpool. During that scouting trip I was asked whether I wanted to go and coach with them as well.

"I was about 18 and had just passed my level-two coaching badge. Kevin Quigley, who was director at the Liverpool Girls' Centre of Excellence asked me to come along. I started off assisting before becoming a formal assistant-coach and then started with the under-tens when Vicky came and joined me!"

Jen's enthusiasm and desire to learn impressed her FA course leaders, including former Everton and England Women's goalkeeping coach Keith Rees. "He was my mentor from that point on and ran the course. He said to me: 'Look you've got something here as a goalkeeper coach and I think you should pursue it'.

"By luck our goalkeeper coach at Liverpool had just left and I asked Kev Quigley about it. For the rest of that season I was the Under-10s coach with Vicky and then after that I coached the goalkeepers.

"It would typically be coaching from 5pm to 7pm with the kids and then 7pm to 9pm with the goalkeepers. When that season finished, Kev told me he wanted me to concentrate on the goalkeepers and it went from there."

Jen continued to build her coaching reputation at Liverpool and in 2011 was delighted to receive an England call-up.

"I've always wanted to improve myself and so went on my UEFA 'B' goalkeeping course. I wanted to continue to learn and get better at the goalkeeping side. I had done my outfield 'B' course because you have to do that first and then specialise on your goalkeeper one.

"I delivered a session and was getting my feedback at the end when they said that I'd passed and that they were going to recommend me to England.

"The head of my course, Martin Thomas [who kept goal for Newcastle and Birmingham City in the 1980s and 90s], worked for UEFA and then the FA. He e-mailed Hope Powell [then manager of England Women] to say: 'I think we've got a good goalkeeper coach here.'

"She then emailed it down to Kay Cossington, a coach mentor who was the head of the Women's youth at the FA. She rang me up really out of the blue one day saying she wanted me to come into a camp. I remember crying after the phone call! And so I went onto my first England camp in 2011. I was 21 or 22 and at the time the camps were called EPC's – Elite Performance Camps.



Frances Kitching

"I remember walking in dressed in my Liverpool kit. I shook the hand of the person at the front desk to introduce myself and they thought I was a player because I must have looked quite young. That was quite embarrassing!"

Since then Jen has worked her way up through the age-groups and last month joined up with England Women's Under-17s for their European Championship qualifiers against Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belgium in Zenica.

She left Liverpool in 2016 to take up a role at Manchester City where she worked with the Regional Talent Club, the Development

PREUSS WINNER



German goalkeeper Anke Preuss has been named as the first winner of the Liverpool FC Women Standard Chartered player of the month award. She received the prize at the team's training base in Wallasey having been selected by manager Vicky Jepson.

Anke figured in all four of the Reds' fixtures during September and was in excellent form despite a tough start to the season. "It's always really nice to be recognised for your individual performance so I'm really pleased to receive the award but, of course, for me everything is about the team," said the 27-year-old.

Jen Herst said: "It was nice that Anke could earn that personal recognition. I'm really pleased with her and proud of how she's started the season. She looks confident and looks a presence on the pitch which is obviously great for the team."





Anke Preuss

Squad and the first-team. Last season she moved back to Merseyside to take up a role with Everton Women's senior squad and was thrust into the spotlight when she took charge of two FA WSL games following the dismissal of manager Andy Spence.

"It feels like I'm home again now," she says. "It genuinely feels like that because I grew up here from when I was 17 to 26 and then I had that time away where I tried to develop and master goalkeeping which was a really good experience.

"I worked under Chris Williams at Manchester City. He's a fantastic goalkeeper coach and I learnt a lot from him. I took a couple of sessions with their first-team because Chris worked with England too, so I filled in for him a couple of times and working with players like Karen Bardsley and Ellie Roebuck was fantastic.

"Then I had a spell working in a first-team environment at Everton and now I'm back at Liverpool which is where my heart has always been and I feel that I have come back a better goalkeeper coach and a better person."

Jen is thrilled to have joined forces with Jepson again and is relishing her work on the training ground with first-team keepers Anke Preuss and Frances Kitching.

"I've obviously known Vic a long time so it's great to be working with her again. I feel like the environment here suits me as a person and how I want to be as a coach. I think I fit in quite well.

"Vic, Emma and myself all hold the UEFA 'A' award and I think it's a fantastic showcase for the women's game that there are three technical coaches at the top level. You sometimes have a situation where there is a manager or an assistant who have that qualification, but I don't think any other club in the WSL has all three, especially where all the technical staff are female.

"I think it's really nice for girls to see and aspire to, knowing that they can have that route as well, because when I was younger I didn't have anyone to look up to or know that I could make it that way.

"We all bounce off each other really well. We make sure that we talk before the game about what our focus is going to be individually and as a collective. We'll all plan our subs depending on whether we're chasing the game or whether we're trying to keep up a winning position.

"We'll discuss things as a unit which is quite nice and it's definitely collaborative between the three of us."

Jen also hopes her position can inspire others who aspire to a career between the sticks or in a coaching capacity. "I'm really passionate about being a goalkeeper coach. Not having a goalkeeper coach myself to work with and not having that female

IT FEELS LIKE I'M HOME AGAIN NOW AND I FEEL LIKE I HAVE COME BACK A BETTER GOALKEEPER COACH AND BETTER PERSON



Anke and Frances with 2019/20 goalkeeping jerseys

role-model myself means I'm very passionate about being that female role-model, especially for the youngsters coming through.

"It's rare to have a female goalkeeper coach and so developing female goalkeepers is something that is really important to me because I just want them to get better. It's always been that thing where people dismiss female goalkeepers but I want that to change and for people to think: no, female goalkeepers are great.

"Anke and Fran are both fantastic to work with. They are both so different and I connect with them quite well for different reasons. Fran's really bubbly, lively and loud and the energy she brings to the sessions is fantastic.

"Anke's a lot like me because she really wants the detail in things and is really picky and I think I am like that as a coach. When I'm going back with her feedback and the one-to-ones we have after a game, we'll look over a clip and sometimes I'll say to her: "Oh I'm sorry I'm being really picky here'. She just says: 'No no – I like it'.

"I will literally pick out the finest detail, but I think she really appreciates having that and thrives on it because she's like that as a person – she's really focused and determined. She loves that extra little bit of detail and I like providing it.

"They are both great to work with and really good goalkeepers. Fran is doing a really good job of keeping Anke on her toes. That makes the sessions lively and competitive and it's just really good for both of them to be competing the way they are."

Earlier this year Jen became the youngest holder of a UEFA 'A' goalkeeping certificate, meeting a personal target in the process. "It was always my aim to get my UEFA A before I was 30. I wanted to be the second person in this country to do it after Leanne Hall, the Arsenal goalkeeper coach, and also the youngest. Ever since I went on my level two course and realised that goalkeeping is the thing that I wanted to do, that was always my aim.

"I don't know the stats for Europe but we're the only two in England with that qualification and I think there are maybe another three or four in Europe.

"It was an 18-month journey and a lot of focus was on the tactical side of the game, How you make the goalkeepers part of the team was the big focus. On your one, your two and your 'B' courses, it was more about all-round goalkeeping, technically and tactically. This was more about how you can bring those things altogether and make sure that the keepers are utilised as part of the team.

"We had micro-groups and all had to visit each other's micro-groups. I had mine come to visit me at Man City and Everton. It was a long process but it was really good. The best part about going on these courses is the people that are on them. You learn so much from them. On this one, we had Premier League goalkeeper coaches and the Welsh men's goalkeeper coach.

"I was the only female there and just learning from the people in the room was fantastic. Hearing their stories, watching their sessions and taking little bits from them was definitely a highlight.

"I picked up a lot from hearing about the ways that they have dealt with various situations they came across and hopefully I can bring that to the sessions at Liverpool and help our keepers improve week by week."



STUDENTS OF THE GAME

Jen Herst (goalkeeper coach): holder of a UEFA 'A' licence and a UEFA 'A' goalkeeping licence, Jen rejoined LFC Women having originally started on the Centre of Excellence's coaching staff as a teenager. Last season she stood in as caretaker-manager of Everton for two FA WSL games.

Vicky Jepson (manager): celebrated a decade working with the Reds last month. Holder of a UEFA 'A' licence, she was named FA Female Development Coach of the Year in 2015. She was appointed manager of Liverpool FC Women in October 2018.

Emma Humphries (first-team coach): a UEFA 'A' licence coach, the New Zealander joined last season. Previously worked at Vancouver Whitecaps and as NZ women's national development manager. She represented her country as a player at the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.



"THERE'S MORE TO COME"

It was a good October for midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain who showed off his eye for goal with three stunning long-range strikes, two in the Champions League win in Genk and another in the incredible tie with Arsenal in the Carabao Cup at Anfield. "I feel like I'm definitely fit enough and I'm in a good place where I can go and affect the game," he says. "The more you play, you sort of go into different gears that you didn't know you had. I'm sure there is more to come, there needs to be, so I'll keep working towards that."


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KICKS: IN SAFE HANDS

One of LFC Foundation's flagship programmes has been relaunched with the help of two Reds goalkeepers

→

You've heard of Kicks. It's the outstanding Premier League community programme that sees 90 Premier League, EFL and National League clubs work closely with young people and authorities in their local area to deliver free sports sessions and workshops. And now it's even better than before.

On-hand to celebrate its recent relaunch at Anfield Sports & Community Centre were Liverpool goalkeeper Adrian and Anke Preuss, who took part in a special tournament.

Participants from the Kicks under-15 sessions played teams representing Everton, Derby County, West Bromwich Albion and Manchester City during an afternoon of nine-versus-nine games before meeting the keepers for a Q&A and photo-opportunity.

Adrian said: "It's fantastic to meet the kids from the LFC Foundation programmes. For a player like me who is fairly new to the city, it's great to come and get involved in the local community and see the work our Foundation does.

"You can really see that the young people enjoy these sessions and take a lot of positive things away with them."

Kicks provides opportunities and support for young people to achieve their full potential and create stronger, safer and more inclusive communities. It will ow include a Disability and Inclusion strand – formerly Respect 4 All – and increased girls football opportunities, with total of 18 sessions taking place in nine of the most high-need areas across the Liverpool City Region every week.

Anke added: "This is such a brilliant programme for the local youngsters to get involved in and it's great to see it expanding to include even more girls sessions.

"I've really enjoyed coming down here today and meeting all the participants, and I hope my tips and advice will help them going forward."







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Leighanne (middle) with one of the teams at the Kicks evening



There followed an evening of football and educational workshops at the ASCC attended by one of Anke's team-mates, defender Leighanne Robe, in which children from Primary and Secondary Kicks groups, youngsters from the Inclusion and Girls Development groups and the U18s Development squad took part in sessions to provide guests with an overview of the entire LFC Foundation Kicks programme.

Leighanne joined in the sessions, shared the story of her career so far and offered tips and advice for improving skills and technique.

Programme partners Young Addaction, Merseyside Police, Roadpeace, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Real Men Don't Carry Knives were also on hand to offer advice on issues such as drug and alcohol awareness, road-safety, anti-social behaviour and knife-crime.

Foundation director Matt Parish said: "Our Premier League Kicks programme has been running for the past ten years and in that time we have engaged with and positively impacted thousands of local youngsters.

"The sessions provide a safe space for children and young people to spend time, make friends and get involved in physical-activity while also learning how to make positive choices in their lives.

"We're delighted to be here celebrating the relaunch of Kicks and the Premier League's commitment to fund the programme for another three years."









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MADE IN MALAWI

LFC Foundation and LSTM champion a health-awareness project with a difference

September saw LFC Foundation head back to southeast Africa to deliver the final stage of the Health Goals Malawi project alongside Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) – encouraging young people to use health services focused on HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases.

Using the power of the LFC badge and the wider appeal of football, the project engages in particular with local males aged 14-22 who are least likely to access services such as self-testing and treatment plans.

In Malawi the number of people living with HIV is one of the highest in the world. Youngsters account for 50 per cent of new infections, with incidences highest among 15 to 17-year-olds who often have low levels of awareness.

"We were delighted to head back to Malawi once again to deliver this fantastic project," said LFC Foundation director Matt Parish.

"The programme has built an amazing platform for health education and has ensured sustainability through the training and development of local coaches.

"Working with LSTM and the local coaches in Malawi has allowed us to engage with such a hard-to-reach group and we've been able to make a real difference to the health and life-chances of hundreds of young people."

Across the week Foundation coaches and LSTM staff delivered seven community outreach sessions throughout the Chikwawa region, with over 600 young people taking part. A total of 25 local community coaches, trained by FA Malawi and LFC Foundation back in June, helped to lead activities like football training and HIV education.









All participants were taught how to use an HIV self-test kit and shown a demonstration video featuring Sadio Mane, with those old enough given a kit to take home.

Over 1,000 were distributed to participants and among the 5,000 crowd which had gathered to watch a Health Goals Malawi team take on Wizards FC from the Malawian city of Blantyre.

Local coach Frank Chilongo said: "This project has not only increased knowledge of HIV among young people but also broken down the fear of getting tested.

"Now, if you finish a session without telling the participants any health messages – they are going to ask you, 'Coach, are you not going to tell us a health message?' It's because they are enjoying it, so it's great for us."

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What's On

NOV/DEC





DERBY DATES AT ANFIELD

North West neighbours Manchester City and Everton head to Anfield at either end of an intriguing 25-day spell.

The Reds will know how valuable three points against City could be, particularly given the fine margins involved in both of last season's Premier League games between the sides.

Pep Guardiola's side are in town on Sunday 10 November for the crunch clash. Meanwhile the Wednesday night game against Everton on 4 December will bring back memories of last season's encounter in front of the Kop and Divock Origi's dramatic late winner.

Shoe-horned between those two matches, the Reds also face Premier League dates at Crystal Palace and at home to Brighton, as well as a potentially pivotal Champions League clash with Napoli in L4 on Wednesday 27 November.

All told, it promises to be quite a month for Jürgen Klopp's men!

NOV/DEC

What's On

LFC WOMEN MAKE ANFIELD DEBUT

History will be made at Anfield when Liverpool FC Women play their first Barclays FA Women's Super League game at the ground – and the fixture will be even more memorable as it will see the Reds face Everton in a Merseyside derby.

The match takes place on Sunday 17 November with a 3pm kick-off and forms part of the inaugural FA Women's Football Weekend, taking place during the next men's international-break. Adult tickets for the game cost £5 with up to three accompanying children (under 16) for free. LFC's ongoing commitment to allow Anfield season ticket holders and Official Members free access to women's games will continue for the fixture, although everyone must secure their tickets in advance at liverpoolfc.com/tickets.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

12 years since the Reds hammered Besiktas 8-0 in a Champions League group game at Anfield in 2007.
43 years since left-back and cult hero Joey Jones made his Liverpool debut in 1976.
49 years since centre-forward John Toshack joined from Cardiff City in 1970.
52 years since Liverpool beat TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Fairs Cup tie in 1967.
67 years since local lad and future legend Ronnie Moran made his Liverpool debut in 1952.
4 years since the Reds won 4-1 at Manchester City to claim their first away win under Jürgen Klopp in 2015.

And it's 15 years since Antonio Nunez made his Liverpool debut on 28 November 2004...

The Spanish winger became a cult figure with Liverpudlians after joining in the summer of 2004 as part of the deal that saw Michael Owen leave for Real Madrid. Well-known to new Reds boss Rafael Benitez, he was valued at £1.5 million in Owen's £8.5 million move to the Bernabeu. "Even if Owen hadn't signed for Madrid, I already had an offer from Liverpool and I knew that the manager was keen to sign me, which is something to be proud of," he explained. He was one of a quartet of Spanish players brought in by Benitez, joining defender Josemi and midfielders Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia.

Unfortunately Nunez injured his knee on his first day of training and wasn't ready for action until three months later. His debut finally came in late November 2004 and there was an air of anticipation around him when he replaced Florent Sinama-Pongolle in a 2-1 home victory over Arsenal famous for Neil Mellor's dramatic late winner.

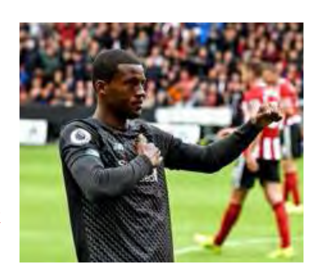
He went on to make 18 appearances in what was his only season at the club but his popularity was enhanced by a life-size cardboard cut-out of a cartoon footballer dubbed 'Tony Nunez' and taken by fans on the club's Champions League adventures that season.

Nunez, who retired at the end of the 2017/18 season at the age of 39, is also the answer to an LFC-related quiz question. His only goal for the club came in a major final, scoring with a header during extra-time in the defeat to Chelsea in the 2005 League Cup final.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

John Barnes 56 on 7 November
Patrik Berger 46 on 10 November
Gini Wijnaldum 29 on 11 November
Jade Bailey 24 on 11 November
Ron Yeats 82 on 12 November
Courtney Sweetman-Kirk 29 on 16 November



Bobby Graham 75 on 22 November
Jim Furnell 82 on 23 November
Caoimhin Kelleher 21 on 23 November
Steve Heighway 72 on 25 November
Xabi Alonso 38 on 25 November
Phil Babb 49 on 30 November



2019/20 Fixtures & Results

AUGUST		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah)
Fri 09	Norwich City (H)	4-1	Sky	Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	2-2**	BT	Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah)
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Sat 24	Arsenal (H)	3-1	Sky	Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen)
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 14	Newcastle United (H)	3-1	BT	Mane 2, Salah
Tue 17	Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A)	0-2	BT	
Sun 22	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
Wed 25	MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A)	2-0	Sky	Milner, Hoever
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	1-0	BT	Wijnaldum
OCTOBER				
Wed 02	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H)	4-3	BT	Mane, Robertson, Salah 2
Sat 05	Leicester City (H)	2-1		Mane, Milner (pen)
Sun 20	Manchester United (A)	1-1	Sky	Lallana
Wed 23	Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A)	4-1	BT	Oxlade-Chamberlain 2, Mane, Salah
Sun 27	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	2-1	Sky	Henderson, Salah (pen)
Wed 30	Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H)	5-5**	Sky	Mustafi (OG), Milner (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Origi 2 (pens: Milner, Lallana, Brewster, Origi, Jones)
NOVEMBER				
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	2-1		Robertson, Mane
Tue 05	Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H)	2-1	BT	Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain
Sun 10	Manchester City (H)	4.30pm	Sky	
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	3pm		
Wed 27	Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H)	8pm	BT	
Sat 30	Brighton (H)	3pm		
DECEMBER				
Wed 04	Everton (H)	8.15pm	AP	
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3pm		
Tue 10	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A)	5.55pm	BT	
Sat 14	Watford (H)	12.30pm	BT	
Tue 17	Aston Villa (Carabao Cup QF, A)	7.45pm	Sky	
Wed 18	Club World Championship SF	5.30pm		
Sat 21	Club World Championship F/3rd	TBC		
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	8pm	AP	
Sun 29	Wolverhampton W (H)	4.30pm	Sky	
JANUARY				
Thu 02	Sheffield United (H)	8pm	BT	
Sat 04	FA Cup 3	TBC		
Wed 08	Carabao Cup SF 1	TBC		
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	5.30pm	Sky	
Sun 19	Manchester United (H)	4.30pm	Sky	
Thu 23	Wolverhampton W (A)	8pm	BT	
Sat 25	FA Cup 4	TBC		
Wed 29	Carabao Cup SF 2	TBC		
FEBRUARY				
Sat 01	Southampton (H)	3pm		
Sat 08/15	Norwich City (A)	TBC		
T/W 18/19	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 22	West Ham United (H)	3pm		
T/W 25/26	UCL last 16 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 29	Watford (A)	3pm		
MARCH				
Sun 01	Carabao Cup final (N)	TBC		
Wed 04	FA Cup 5	TBC		
Sat 07	Bournemouth (H)	3pm		
T/W 10/11	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 14	Everton (A)	3pm		
T/W 17/18	UCL last 16 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 21	Crystal Palace (H)	3pm		
Sat 21	FA Cup 6	TBC		
APRIL				
Sat 04	Manchester City (A)	3pm		
T/W 07/08	UCL QF 1	TBC	BT	
Sat 11	Aston Villa (H)	3pm		
T/W 14/15	UCL QF 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 18	Brighton (A)	3pm		
Sat 18	FA Cup SF	TBC		
Sat 25	Burnley (H)	3pm		
T/W 28/29	UCL SF 1	TBC	BT	
MAY				
Sat 02	Arsenal (A)	3pm		
T/W 05/06	UCL SF 2	TBC	BT	
Sat 09	Chelsea (H)	3pm		
Sun 17	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		
Sat 23	FA Cup final (N)	TBC		
Sat 30	UCL final (N)	TBC	BT	
TBC	West Ham United (A)	TBC		







All fixtures subject to change. AP = Amazon Prime *lost 5-4 on pens ** won 5-4 on pens



NEIL MELLOR

It's been great to see the Ox giving Liverpool something different again going forward

When Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain suffered his long-term knee injury in 2018, Jürgen Klopp could very easily have gone into the transfer market and signed a replacement. But he didn't.

The Liverpool manager remained patient for the midfielder to recover and 18 months on we're now seeing his faith repaid with Oxlade-Chamberlain starting to put in similar performances to before he got injured. He was flying at the time – probably playing the consistently best football of his career – but then had the frustration of the injury to contend with.

You start thinking 'is this it?' when you get a bad injury and I'm sure Alex will have had some of those thoughts, but the manager stuck with him and the confidence that has given him has been reflected in his performances.

There's a physical and mental aspect to recovering from bad injuries. Physically you want to return in the right condition so it doesn't happen again, but mentally you can start doing things a little safer and not make certain movements if you're worrying about aggravating the problem.

While Oxlade-Chamberlain will have had Liverpool's medical team around him helping his physical recovery, getting back to where he was mentally – at the top of his game – is the bigger challenge.

He was around a successful team during his rehabilitation and has now come back into a side that is the best in Europe and competing to win the Premier League title. To not be involved in last season's title-challenge will have frustrated him, but he'll be delighted to have returned to a side that has vastly progressed.

We know Alex can score goals and his winner against Genk at Anfield was his fourth this season, putting him one ahead of Roberto Firmino. The value of goals from midfield cannot be underestimated.

Last season Liverpool's front-three took a lot of pressure off the midfield by scoring so many goals, whereas they haven't been quite so prolific at the start of this season. Thankfully all the attacking midfielders have contributed key goals at big moments.

Gini Wijnaldum got the winner at Sheffield United. James Milner converted the winning penalty against Leicester City – a pivotal moment in the season. Adam Lallana struck a late equaliser at Old Trafford, the last place we want to lose a game of football at.

Had Jordan Henderson not got a goal early in the second half against Spurs it could have been a really frustrating afternoon. And Oxlade-Chamberlain has scored important goals against Genk in the Champions League and Arsenal in the Carabao Cup.

Out of all these players, Oxlade-Chamberlain has got the biggest goal-threat and gives Liverpool something different going forward, especially as he's prepared to shoot from outside the penalty area. Some of his goals have been spectacular, too.

I'm really enjoying watching him at the moment. I feel like I'm seeing the player we had before his injury and there are a lot of games to play this season.

The schedule in December – with Liverpool playing in the Club World Cup in Qatar the day after the Carabao Cup quarter-final at Aston Villa – is relentless and we've got five Premier League games plus a Champions League game in Salzburg to play before a hectic January in which the FA Cup gets underway. Oxlade-Chamberlain is going to get game-time, and is going to have to contribute in the way he has been doing, during this busy period.

This group of players have shown a superb mentality this season. They never give up and even the players who'll have been disappointed to be on the bench have shown great attitudes when coming on. That was there last season and we're seeing it again this.

I'm sure Oxlade-Chamberlain will have been frustrated not to have started more Premier League games, but he has put himself back in the reckoning for the manager to look at him as a genuine contender to start.

To get himself back into the required condition and that position is testament who how hard he's worked and I am certain that there is plenty more to come from him.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

FURON



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